Friday, June 12, 2026 No 162 ₹7

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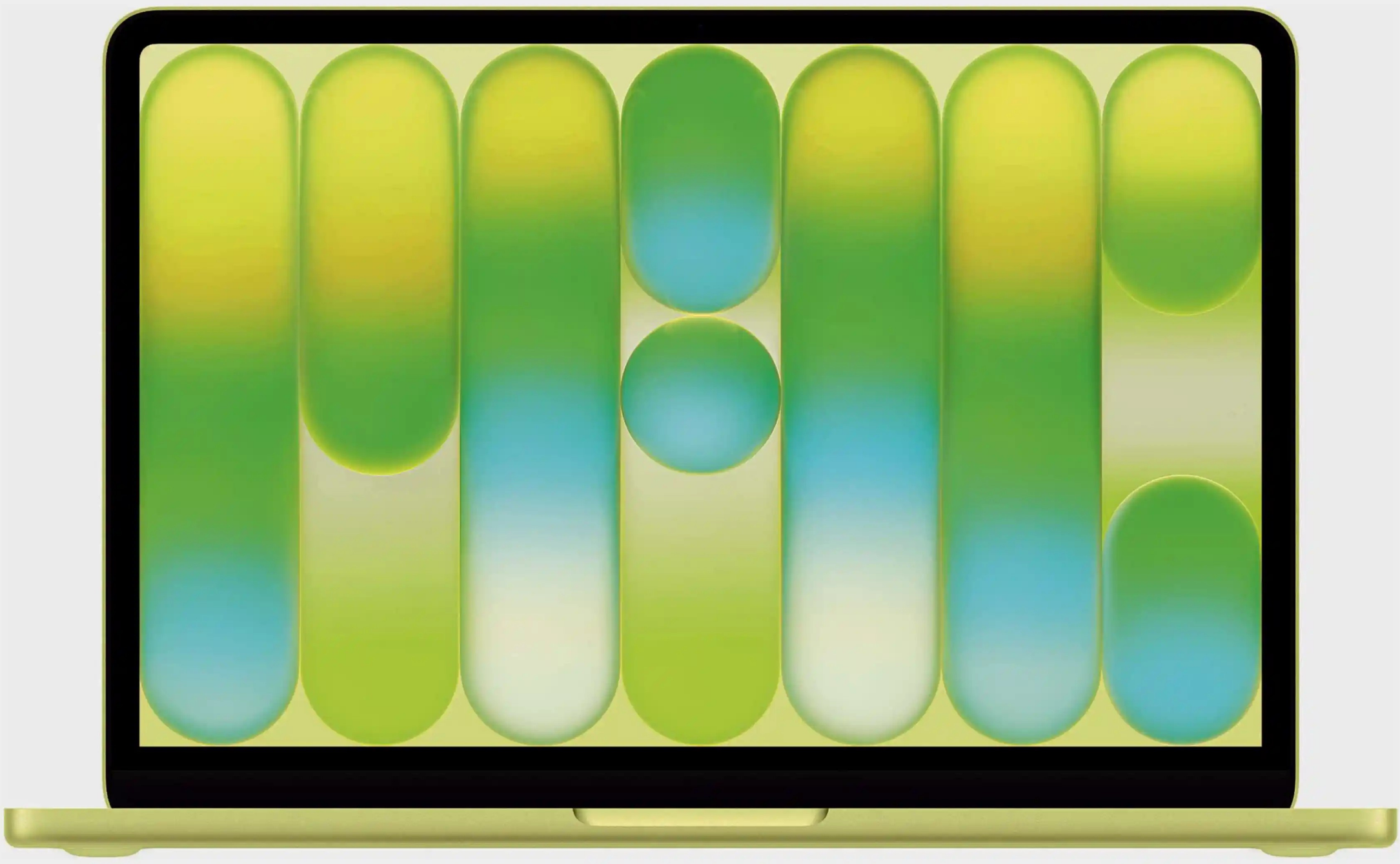

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The Power of Good

Women's WC now more open, shows transformed game

India, Eng, SA pose threat to Aussie dominance

Page 14

5.95L ineligible Gruha Lakshmi claimants purged

Biometric authentication drive to cover 1.23 cr beneficiaries

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government has removed nearly six lakh beneficiaries from the Gruha Lakshmi scheme and has recovered Rs 64 crore from bank accounts of ineligible recipients following a statewide scrutiny drive.

Even as the Opposition parties accuse the ruling Congress of finding excuses to exclude beneficiaries, the Women and Child Development department's records show that the flagship scheme, which provides Rs 2,000 a month to women heads of households, has disbursed Rs 72,000 crore over the last three years.

A pilot study found 1.20 lakh deceased beneficiaries still receiving DBT payments. "On verification, we found 4.5 lakh beneficiaries were deceased and another 1.45 lakh were income tax or GST payees. They were all removed from the GL list," said a senior official.

Officials said the Finance department shared the Gruha Lakshmi database with the Income Tax and Commercial Taxes departments. The list was synchronised with I-T and GST records to block future payments to ineligible accounts.

While urban deaths are updated automatically on the Kutumba portal, rural records lag due to delayed death certificate uploads. In a meeting with bankers, the department found that bank accounts of the deceased were allegedly misused to withdraw benefits from ATMs.

Karnataka Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority chairperson H M Revanna said monthly village-level reviews will update records and prevent leakages.

▸ Gruha Lakshmi, Page 7

Gruha Lakshmi Scheme — Launched on August 30, 2023

- Enrolled beneficiaries: **1.30 crore**
- Beneficiaries availing benefit: **1.23 crore**
- Monthly aid: **Rs 2,000 to woman head of family**
- Total instalments paid till date: **30**
- Total amount disbursed: **Rs 72k cr approx**
- Dead beneficiaries (removed): **4.5 lakh**
- I-T/GST payees (removed): **1.45 lakh**
- Amount recovered: **Rs 64 cr**

3 Indians confirmed dead in US hit on ship

20 rescued after 3rd vessel struck; stop attacks, tells India

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Just a day after India denounced an American military offensive that killed three Indian citizens aboard a commercial ship near the Strait of Hormuz, 20 more Indian seafarers had a narrow escape when a US aircraft fired missiles on another vessel in the same region on Thursday.

The latest attack took place even as New Delhi confirmed the death of deck cadet Aditya Sharma, engine fitter Shivanand Chaurasiya and chief engineer Patnala Suresh, who were among 24 Indian seafarers aboard MT Settebello and were reported to be missing during the US offensive targeting the oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman on Wednesday.

MT Jalveer, sailing under the flag of Guinea-Bissau, came under attack from a US military aircraft on Thursday when it was allegedly transporting oil from Iran through the Gulf of Oman. An American aircraft fired two Hellfire missiles into the engine room, according to the Central Command (CENTCOM) of the US military. The Royal Navy of Oman launched a rescue mission. CENTCOM also claimed that the missiles had been fired after the crew of MT Jalveer had repeatedly failed to comply with directions from US forces. Though MT Jalveer is a bitumen carrier, US CENTCOM alleged that it was carrying oil from Iran.

India's diplomatic mission in Muscat said that all Indian citizens aboard the ship had been safely evacuated to the Port of Shinas in Oman.

▸ Iran, Page 7
UP, AP crew members among dead, Page 11

Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz in Iran on Thursday. REUTERS

Trump calls off threats to hit Iran

US President Donald Trump said Thursday he has called off new military strikes on Iran, hours after threatening to escalate the war by seizing control of the country's oil industry and the key Kharg Island. Trump said in a social media post that he made the move "based on the fact that discussions with the Islamic Republic of Iran have been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved". He wrote that "discussions and final points have been, in both concept and great detail," approved by United States, Israel, and other regional allies. He, however, did not offer details.

Details on Page 12

Homemakers' unpaid work worth Rs 30k per month: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a significant ruling on Thursday, the Supreme Court said that the unpaid domestic work performed by homemakers must be monetised at a minimum of Rs 30,000 per month when awarding compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act.

Recognising the immense contribution of homemakers, the Supreme Court described them as 'nation builders'.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh said a homemaker contributes not just to the family, but to the progress of the nation by nurturing human capital and enabling other members to pursue their livelihoods.

"In our view, it is ironic to describe a homemaker as dependent when, in reality, the household's functioning depends substantially on the homemaker," the bench said. "The earning members are in fact dependent on the homemaker, but alas, this reality does not receive the acknowledgment it deserves," the top court added.

The ruling came on a plea seeking enhancement of compensation for the family of a homemaker who died in a road accident in 2001. The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal had awarded only Rs 2.42 lakh, which the HC enhanced to Rs 8.43 lakh. The apex court raised it to Rs 62,77,900.

▸ Women, Page 7
SC decries bias against girl child, Page 7

SC awards Rs 25L to B'luru man

The Supreme Court on Thursday came to the rescue of a man, who was left paralysed in 2017 when a tree branch fell on his autorickshaw in Bengaluru, by enhancing the compensation to Rs 25 lakh.

Details on page 6

Two TMC MPs exit Rajya Sabha, Mamata aide targets Abhishek

KOLKATA, DHNS: Trouble mounted for the Trinamool Congress on Thursday, with Kalyan Banerjee, a long-trusted associate of party chief Mamata Banerjee, launching an attack on her nephew and TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

The day also saw TMC MPs Prakash Chik Baraik and Koel Mullick resigning from the Rajya Sabha, becoming the third and fourth from the party to quit the Upper House.

Kalyan Banerjee

Details on Page 10

Bidadi farmers booked; HM hints at dropping case

BENGALURU, DHNS: The police have booked a few farmers and activists protesting against the proposed township project in Bidadi, even as Home Minister Priyank Kharge said the government would close the FIR if investigations revealed the case was wrongly filed.

A First Information Report was filed following a massive bike rally organised by farmers and Karnataka Rashtra Samiti (KRS) activists on June 6 against the state government's plans to acquire more than 7,000 acres of land for the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) in Bidadi.

Five farmers and five KRS activists were booked under sections 189 and 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaha Sanhita for holding the rally without obtaining prior administrative permission, thereby allegedly resorting to unlawful assembly and disrupting public peace.

After the booking of farmers attracted widespread criticism, Kharge on Thursday said he would take necessary action after gathering more information from the local level on what exactly happened.

▸ Bidadi, Page 7

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಸೇತು ಸಂಪರ್ಕ

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಬಲಿಷ್ಠ ಅಡಿಪಾಯ

ಡಾ. ಜಿ. ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕರುನಾಡಿನ ಪ್ರಗತಿಗೆ ವೇಗ ತುಂಬಲು, ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಗಮ ಸಂಚಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಹೊಸ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಚಾಲನೆ

ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ

- ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ ಜಾಲವೇ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಹೃದಯ. ಸಮಗ್ರ ರಾಜ್ಯಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸುಗಮ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನದಿಂದ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಾಹನ ಸಂಚಾರದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆ, ಜನರಿಗೆ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ, ವೇಗವಾದ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಾರ್ಹ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ದಿಟ್ಟ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದೆ.
- **27814.45 ಕಿಮೀ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಗಳು** ಹಾಗೂ **56165.48 ಕಿಮೀ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳು** ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ವಿಶಾಲ ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಗಳ ನಂತರ ಅತೀ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವಾಹನ ಸಂಚಾರ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ಈ ಅಗತ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಮನಗಂಡು, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ನೀಡುವ ಮಹತ್ವದ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

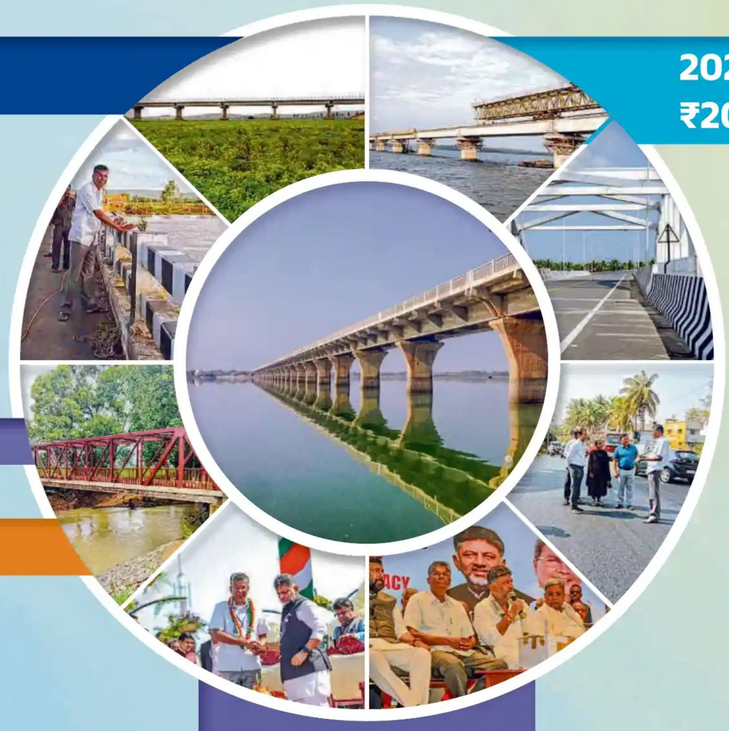
ಹಳೆಯ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ನವೀಕರಣ

ರೂ. 109.79 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ 271 ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನಶ್ಚೇತನ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆದ್ಯತೆ

ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಮತ್ತು ಕರಾವಳಿ ಭಾಗಗಳ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ರಹಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪ್ರವಾಹಕ್ಕೆ ತರಲು **"ಕಾಲು ಸಂಕ"** ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವೇಗವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.

- **622 ಕಾಲುಸಂಕಗಳು – 3 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಪೂರ್ಣ**
- **ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ 300 ಕಾಲುಸಂಕಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ**



2025-26ನೇ ಆಯವ್ಯಯದ 1ನೇ ಹಂತದ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ₹2000 ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನ

- ರಾಜ್ಯವ್ಯಾಪಿ ಮಹತ್ವದ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಯೋಜನೆ
- 237 ಸಣ್ಣ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳು ₹ 660.97 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತ
- ನಗರದ 20 ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ₹ 204 ಕೋಟಿ

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಸಚಿವರಾದ
ಶ್ರೀ ಸತೀಶ ಜಾರಕಿಹೊಳಿ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಬೃಹತ್ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ 1 ನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ
1	ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಪರ್ವತಗೌರಿ-ಕರಾವಳಿ (ಕೋಣಪುರದಿಂದ ಬೋಳಾರವರೆಗೆ) ನೇತ್ರಾವತಿ ನದಿಗೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸೇತುವೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ನಬಾರ್ಡ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ರೂ.200.00 ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಒದಗಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಬಾಕಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.	5000
2	ಜಗಳೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಬಿಳಿಚೋಡು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	1000
3	ತುಮಕೂರು-ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ KSRTC ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದಿಂದ ವೀರಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ಪುನರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ (ಭದ್ರಾ ಸೇತು)	4200
4	ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮಾರಿಕಣಿವೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ವೇದಾವತಿ ನದಿಗೆ (waste weir of Vanivilas Dam) ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	2500
5	ಮಂಗಳೂರು-ಆತ್ರಾಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರವೂರು ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	4000
6	ಮಂಗಳೂರು - ಅತ್ರಾಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡೀಲು ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	3300
7	ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ತೀರ್ಥಹಳ್ಳಿ-ಕುಂದಾಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ (ಕಂಡೂರು) ಸೇತುವೆ	5500

ಈಶಾನ್ಯ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಬೃಹತ್ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ 1 ನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ
1	ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿಯ ಕಂಪ್ಲಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.	10000
2	ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹರಪನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜಿಕ್ಕೋಬನಹಳ್ಳಿ-ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ-ಡಿ.ಹೊನ್ನತ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (ಹಲುವಾಗಲು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹತ್ತಿರ) (ಗರ್ಭಗುಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹತ್ತಿರ) ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	1200
3	ಮಾನವಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮುನ್ನೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹತ್ತಿರದ ನಾಲಾ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವ ಸೇತುವೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	1100
4	ಭಾಲ್ಕಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಔರಾದ್-ಸದಾಶಿವಘಡ್ ದಲ್ಲಿ(ದಾದಗಿ) ಇರುವ ಸೇತುವೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	2000
5	ಪ್ರಿಯದರ್ಶಿನಿ ಜಾರಾಲಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಸಹಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೂರದಿಪಾಡ್ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ನಾದರಗಡ್ಡೆ ದ್ವೀಪಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	2000
6	ಗುದರು ತಾಂಡಾ (SH-155) ಇಂದ ಗೌಡಗಾನ್ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ಜೀನೇಜ್‌ನೆಲ್ಲಿ, ಅಪ್ಪಯ್ಯಬ್ಬರ ತಾಲೂಕು, ಕೊಗನೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸಮೀಪ ಅಮರ್ಜಾ ನದಿಗೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ.	1000

ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಬೃಹತ್ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ 1 ನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ
1	ಬೇಲೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಬೀದಿಗೆ ಯಗಚಿ ಹೊಳೆಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಸೇತುವೆಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	5000
2	ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರದ ಹನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಅಲಂಬಾಡಿ - ಹೋಗೇನಕಲ್ ಫಾಲ್ಸ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಹೊಸ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	5000
3	ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ.ಡಿ.ಕೋಟೆಯ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಪುರ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್-ತಾರಕಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	1000
4	ಗುಬ್ಬಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ತುರುವೇಕೆರೆ ಗಡಿ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ ವೆಂಕಟೇಗೌಡನ ಪಾಳ್ಯ, ಹುರುಳಿಗೆರೆ, ಯರಗಹಟ್ಟಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	1000
5	ಅರಕಲಗೂಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಕೊಣನೂರು ಕಟ್ಟೆಪುರ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	4521

ಉತ್ತರ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಬೃಹತ್ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ 1 ನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ
1	ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಕಿತ್ತೂರ-ಬೇಮಲಾಪೂರ (ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ನದಿಗೆ) ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	7000
2	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲಿವೇಟೆಡ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ / ಗ್ರೇಡ್ ಸೆಪರೇಟರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	27553
3	ಧಾರವಾಡ ನವಲಗುಂದ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಶಲವಡಿ ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಣ್ಣೆಹಳ್ಳಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	8000
4	ವಿಜಯಪುರದ ಇಂಡಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಪಡನೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಮಕಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ಅಂಕಲಗಿ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಭೀಮಾ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	6540
5	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿಯ ಗೋಕಾಕ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಅಂಕಲಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬಳಿ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಾಲೆಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	1210
6	ಉ.ಕನ್ನಡದ ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜಲವಳಕರ್ಕಿ ಇಂಡಗುಂಜಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಶರಾವತಿ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	6300
7	ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ನದಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಹೇಶ್ವಾಡಗಿ ಸೇತುವೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಆರ್‌ಸಿಸಿ ಬಹುಕೋಶ ಬಾಕ್ಸ್ ಕಲ್ವರ್ಟ್‌ಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವಾ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳು/ರ್ಯಾಂಪ್‌ಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ.	1000
8	ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆಯ ಮುಧೋಳ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಯರಗಟ್ಟಿ-ಬಾಬಲೇಶ್ವರದಲ್ಲಿ ಘಟಪ್ರಭಾ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	2800
9	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿಯ ಖಾನಾಪೂರದ ನಾಗರಗಾಳಿ-ಕಟಕೋಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಲಪ್ರಭಾ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	1500
10	ಬಸವನಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ ಮಸಬಿನಾಳ ದೋಣೂರ-ನೇಗಿನಾಳದ ದೋಣಿ ನದಿಗೆ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	2500
11	ಹಾವೇರಿಯ ಶಿಗ್ಗಾಂವ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕುಮಟಾ - ತಡಸ ಹಳ್ಳಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	1000
12	ಸಿಂಧಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ನಾಗರಾಣ-ರಾಂಪೂರ ರಸ್ತೆ ವ್ಯಾಯಾ ಹುಣಶ್ಯಾಳ-ಹಿಟ್ಟಳ್ಳಿ ಕಡೇವಾಡ-ಜಾಂದಕವಠ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	1000

2026-27ನೇ ಆಯವ್ಯಯದ 2ನೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ₹2000 ಕೋಟಿಯ ಅನುದಾನ ಘೋಷಣೆ

2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಯವ್ಯಯ ಘೋಷಣೆ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 327ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪುನ: ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ₹2000 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಈ ಘೋಷಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಾಕಾರಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ರೂ.2000 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಸತೀಶ ಜಾರಕಿಹೊಳಿ ಅವರ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ, ಯಾವ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ಅನುದಾನ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲವೋ, ಆ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ಮೇಲೂ ವಿಶೇಷ ಗಮನ ಹರಿಸಿ, ಅವುಗಳ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಮಾನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೂ ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ.

"ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಪಾಸ್ತಿ ರಕ್ಷಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹಿಂಸೆಯನ್ನು ತ್ಯಜಿಸುವುದು" ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ

ಸಂಪರ್ಕವೇ ಸಮೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಸಂಕೇತ - ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಸಂಚಾರ • ವೇಗವಾದ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ • ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ

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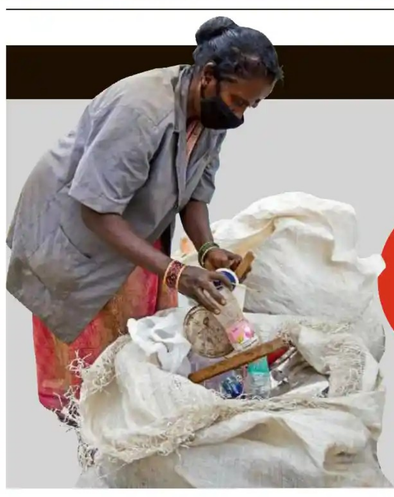

FACTS & FIGURES

By the numbers

30 lakh households in Bengaluru (estimated)

750 households = 1 collection block

4,000 auto tippers required (based on that norm)

Why BSWML wants change

- More than 50% of vehicles are over 15 years old.
- Existing three-wheelers can carry only 500 kg of waste.
- On any given day, 5-10% of auto tippers remain absent, affecting waste collection from thousands of homes.
- New 33-package tenders would require contractors to invest about Rs 10 crore per package in new vehicles, but the matter is still pending in the court.

EV procurement plan

- **40 electric vehicles** proposed in Phase-1.
- Estimated cost: **Rs 4.97 crore.**
- With equipment: **Rs 9.46 lakh–Rs 11.16 lakh per vehicle.**

Lokayukta push

The Lokayukta suggested that the BSWML/ five city corporations should own at least 50% of the vehicles instead of depending entirely on contractors.

BSWML plans own garbage fleet, seeks to phase out contractors

NAVEEN MENEZES
ENGALURU, DHNS

In what could be a significant shift in the city's waste management system, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) is considering procuring its own fleet of auto tippers for garbage collection while outsourcing only drivers and helpers.

The move signals the BSWML's intent to move away from the long-standing practice of relying entirely on contractors for both vehicles and manpower.

The proposal, put forward by BSWML Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda, follows observations made by the Karnataka Lokayukta, which expressed dissatisfaction over irregular waste collection and the persistence of garbage blackspots across the city.

The proposal is expected to be discussed internally and, if approved, could fundamentally alter Bengaluru's waste collection model, which has remained contractor-driven for nearly two decades.

Notably, authorities have been engaging the existing set of contractors through service contracts, as previous attempts to adopt a tender-based system have not succeeded.

Garbage dumped near Mulkattamma Temple in Vittal Nagar.

> Replacing 33 contractors with a civic-owned fleet could create thousands of self-employment jobs for drivers and helpers while giving BSWML greater operational control.
>
> **Karee Gowda**
> **CEO, BSWML**

According to the BSWML, Bengaluru's nearly 30 lakh households require around 4,000 auto tippers for door-to-door waste collection, assuming each vehicle serves about 750 households. Officials estimate, however, that between 5% and 10% of these vehicles remain off the roads on any given day because of absenteeism among drivers and helpers or vehicle-related issues.

As each vehicle caters to around 750 households, even a single vehicle going off duty can leave hundreds of homes without waste collection services, often leading to garbage being dumped in public spaces.

During a visit to several wards under the Bengaluru North City Corporation, Lokayukta Justice BS Patil reportedly found irregularities in waste collection and questioned civic officials about recurring garbage blackspots.

Lokayukta visit

Officials informed the Lokayukta that they were heavily dependent on contractors and had limited ability to ensure uninterrupted services when vehicles or workers failed to report for duty.

The Lokayukta is learnt to have suggested that the civic body directly manage at least a portion of the waste collection fleet to reduce such dependence.

On June 11, the BSWML drafted a proposal noting that several cities that perform well in the Swachh Survekshan rankings, including Mysuru and Indore, own their garbage collection vehicles while outsourcing manpower. The agency argued that adopting a similar model could improve accountability and monitoring in Bengaluru.

The proposal further notes that nearly half of the existing fleet is more than 15 years old. Most vehicles are three-wheelers with a carrying capacity of about 500 kg, and many are not equipped with GPS, making real-time monitoring difficult.

As an alternative, the BSWML is exploring the possibility of directly procuring vehicles.

According to its estimates, an electric waste collection vehicle equipped with GPS and dash cameras costs between Rs 9.46 lakh and Rs 11.16 lakh through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) platform.

Officials argue that owning the fleet would enable the agency to directly monitor vehicle movement, reduce disruptions caused by contractor absenteeism, and break what the proposal describes as a monopoly-like situation.

In his proposal, Karee Gowda said that replacing dependence on 33 contractors with a fleet owned by the civic body could create thousands of self-employment opportunities for drivers and helpers while giving the BSWML greater operational control.

Activists flag animal cruelty, seek regular action meetings

Illegal breeding, abandoned pets raise concerns

BENGALURU, DHNS

Members of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Bengaluru, have pointed to widespread cruelty to animals in the city, from unlicensed pet shops to illegal breeding centres.

They said enforcing rules and taking action on offenders has become difficult since officials do not convene SPCA meetings regularly.

"We have seen animals caged in bad conditions in pet shops and illegal breeding centres. There are also instances of pet dogs being abandoned or treated cruelly. Though we report such incidents with evidence, there is not much response," said Sujaya Jagadeesh, SPCA member, Bengaluru.

In extreme cases, members confiscate affected animals themselves, but they want official and police support. "As individuals, we try doing what we can, but we need better support to prevent such incidents," Jagadeesh said.

SPCA meetings are supposed to be convened once in three months. However, members said they are hardly held even once a year. Despite meetings being rare, not all the officials are present when they are held.

> We have seen animals caged in bad conditions in pet shops and illegal breeding centres. There are also instances of pet dogs being abandoned or treated cruelly. Though we report such incidents with evidence, there is not much response. We try doing what we can, but we need better support to prevent such incidents.
>
> **– Sujaya Jagadeesh**
> **SPCA member, Bengaluru**

Regular meetings and actions suggested by members would result in better implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, dog feeding and other initiatives, members said.

"The monitoring committee should oversee the ABC programme monthly, but no meetings are scheduled. The programmes are implemented better if the meetings are regular where we can present our feedbacks," said Lina S, another SPCA member.

Activists said strong SPCA functioning is vital as the city corporation implements the Supreme Court order to shift institutional dogs to shelters.

More dog feeding spots to be identified: GBA boss

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao clarified on Thursday that feeding street dogs has not been prohibited, but restricted to designated spots.

He said additional feeding spots are being identified in each ward based on the number of community dogs.

"Residents can contact the Greater Bengaluru Authority helpline 1533 to request identification of a designated feeding place in their area," a GBA statement noted.

Following a Supreme Court ruling on the handling of stray dogs in public spaces, several individuals and institutions have begun relocating the animals. Rao said such actions are an offence under applicable laws and court orders.

"It is illegal to harass, assault, injure or inflict cruelty on stray animals. Appropriate legal action will be taken against such acts."

The GBA has urged citizens, animal welfare organisations, and residential societies to act responsibly to ensure animal welfare.

Officials to develop GIS-based portal to integrate development works

BENGALURU, DHNS: GBA Chief M Maheshwar Rao on Thursday directed officials to integrate development works undertaken by various departments across the GBA jurisdiction through GIS mapping.

Rao said all ongoing and proposed projects of city corporations, departments, and agencies operating within the GBA limits should be uploaded onto a common GIS platform.

"This will facilitate coordination among departments and enable the effective and simultaneous execution of works. GBA IT officials will develop the necessary platform for this purpose," he said.

All city corporations, along with the BWSSB, Bescom, KPTCL, BMRCL, K-RIDE and other departments, have been directed to submit their action plans to the GBA for GIS mapping. He also instructed officials to introduce a system in the five city corporations under which contractor bills would be processed only after project details are updated on the GIS platform.

In addition, officials were asked to finalise the design for Hebbal Junction at the earliest, commence the work, and ensure its completion within the stipulated timeline.

Rao further directed officials to collect comprehensive data on the number of lifts installed in pedestrian foot overbridges across the five city corporations and assess how many of them are functional.

"Non-functional lifts should be repaired immediately, and proper maintenance mechanisms should be put in place."

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Between secrecy and celebration

While lavender marriages remain popular, queer persons are also choosing commitment ceremonies and cultural weddings

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Four years ago, Bengaluru-based gay couple — Sougata Basu and his partner Mayank Kalra — found their happily ever-after when they exchanged wedding vows surrounded by family and friends. What started as a simple commitment soon blossomed into a full-fledged Bengali wedding, with rituals reimagined to honour both grooms.

It was more a social wedding than a legal one, since same-sex marriages remain unrecognised in India. Despite this, the couple has been together for 14 years and is raising two children together. Both Sougata's and Mayank's parents also live with them. The wedding marked something equally important — visibility.

Their story represents one side of a changing conversation around marriage within Bengaluru's queer community. On the other hand are those still grappling with intense family pressure, some of whom are considering lavender marriages — arrangements entered into primarily to conform to social expectations.

Kanav Narayan Sahgal, a queer rights researcher whose work examined marriage pressure among LGBTQ+ individuals, says pressure to marry remains a near-universal experience across age groups, religions and regions.

"What differed was how people responded to that pressure," he says. Some resisted openly, others delayed marriage, while some explored the possibility of lavender marriages.

Yet documenting such marriages remains difficult. They are private arrangements, often known only within close circles. Kanav says its wrong to assume they have disappeared entirely simply because they are difficult to find.

Sougata Basu and his partner, Mayank Kalra, tied the knot in a social wedding ceremony surrounded by family and friends four years ago.

At the same time, several community members told *Metrolife* that lavender marriages appear less visible than they were a decade ago. Jayant, founder of Queer Nilayam, recalls four such marriages within the community that eventually ended in divorce. The experiences became cautionary tales discussed within queer circles, though the identities of those involved remain closely guarded.

Marriage pressure, however, continues to shape decisions. A gay man in his early 30s told *Metrolife* he would consider marrying a woman simply to stop constant questioning from his family, who are unaware of his sexuality. A transgender man said he is actively looking for a lavender marriage to ease family expectations. Meanwhile, a bisexual non-binary individual said relatives have already begun pressuring them to "bring home a son-in-law", making the prospect increasingly difficult to ignore.

PRIDE MONTH

Beyond legality

While some continue to weigh marriages of convenience, others are charting a different path. Across the city, queer couples are increasingly choosing social, cultural and religious ceremonies to celebrate their relationships, regardless of whether the law recognises them. For Jayant and his partner, wedding planning involves reimagining rituals traditionally built around a bride and groom. Certain customs will be removed, others will be adapted, and family participation will become central to the celebration.

Sougata's experience was similar. Vendors, family members and even a priest embraced the couple's vision, helping transform what was intended as a commitment ceremony into a traditional wedding ceremony adapted for two men.

The contrast highlights what Sahgal describes as two realities within the same community. Some queer people continue to navigate expectations through secrecy, others are finding ways to celebrate their relationships openly.

WHAT IS A LAVENDER MARRIAGE?

A lavender marriage is entered into primarily to satisfy social, cultural or family expectations around marriage. It may involve a queer person marrying a heterosexual partner, or two queer individuals (male and female presenting) marrying each other, while concealing their sexual orientation or gender identity from wider society.

Postal dept releases postcards of Wadiyars

They were digitally printed from colour pencil works by a Bengaluru-based artist

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

A series of vibrant, vividly detailed postcards featuring members of the Mysuru royal family is now available for purchase at the Bengaluru GPO. The portraits are colour pencil artworks created by Bengaluru-based artist Prithvi Prabhu, who completed the series during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The postal department had plans to release a series of postcards featuring the Wadiyars, but they wanted to do something different. They were looking for something beyond reprinting photographed images. The Karnataka Philatelic Society came across my work and then approached me with the idea of using my art for the project," Prithvi shares.

The postcards were released on June 4.

The collection was launched at Beaulieu on Palace Road, the former residence of Princess Jayalakshammanni, the sister of Nalvadi Krishna Raja Wadiyar, on June 4. It currently serves as the office of the chief postmaster general. "Incidentally, the launch was on the birth anniversary of the king," says the 26-year-old. The five postcards that make up the collection feature Krishnaraja Wadiyar III, Chamarajendra Wadiyar X, Kempananjammanni of Vani Vilasa Sannidhana, Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV, and Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar. "This is the first time the postal department has released a set of postcards based on the Wadiyars," he notes. They initially released 100 copies, which sold out, and they plan to reprint more to meet the demand.

Prithvi took to art as early as age five, and when he turned 12, he started formally training as an artist. While he uses multiple media, his preferred form of expression is colour pencils. "I'm not particular about the kind of colour pencil or paper, but my work is very detailed," says Prithvi, who is greatly influenced by Raja Ravi Varma. Royalty, jewellery, and the intricate work on saris are some of the themes and imagery he enjoys returning to. He is currently working on a series featuring iconic women from Kannada cinema.

The postcards featuring the Wadiyars are priced at Rs 100 each.

CITY MIX

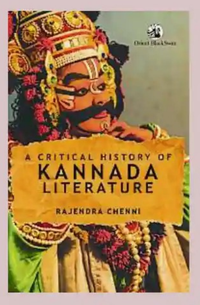
Film screening

The Bangalore Film Forum will screen 'The Boxer's Omen' (1983) by Kuei Chih-Hung on June 14, 5 pm at Untitled Arts Foundation, J P Nagar. It follows Chan Hung who goes to Thailand to avenge his brother's death and finds the key to releasing their family from an ancient curse. *Tickets on fillum.in*

Card trading

The Bangalore Card Show invites collectors, players, vendors, and fans of Pokémon, sports cards, anime, trading card games, and collectibles in general to join them for a day filled with trading cards, rare finds, exciting activities, and great conversations on June 14, 9 am, at Aadhi Sankalp Banquet Hall, Banashankari. *Tickets on townscript.com*

Panel discussion



A panel featuring Rajendra Chenni, E V Ramakrishnan, Vanamala Viswanatha, and N S Gundur will discuss Rajendra Chenni's recent book, 'A Critical History of Kannada Literature', which explores the various aesthetic, socio-historical, and linguistic aspects that have influenced the development of Kannada literature, on June 14, 11.30 am, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. *RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org*

Rock concert

Powerhouse rock icons Guns N' Roses will return to India with concerts in Bengaluru and Guwahati later this year as part of the Asia leg of their ongoing world tour. From the raw energy of 'Welcome to the Jungle' to 'Sweet Child O' Mine', their music has transcended generations, earning a permanent place in rock history. The Bengaluru concert will be held on November 14, 5 pm, at NICE Grounds, Madavara. *Tickets on in.bookmyshow.com*

The band Guns N' Roses

To get your event listed, write to metrolife@deccanherald.co.in

How nostalgia is driving 'kidulting' in Bengaluru

City folk are going back to their childhood, finding joy in the things they once left behind

SUBHASHINI R
TEAM METROLIFE

Social media is rife with posts about how people have been spending their adult money on everything from cute stationery, to art supplies, plushies and action figurines. It's called 'kidulting' and though the trend is not new, it has seen a resurgence in the past two years.

About 10 years ago, adult colouring books began to catch the fancy of everyone from amateur to seasoned artists. It continues to be a popular section in bookstores across the city. Stress relief, time for reflection and just watching colour fill up a page are some of the draws of these books with themes ranging from mandala art, to wildlife, underwater life and fashion.

During her recent visit to Tokyo, Saahiba spent hours inside TeamLab, an immersive experience centre, which she describes as a playground for adults. "I felt overstimulated from start to finish but in a nice way. There were colours, sounds and moving lights everywhere. I waded through water, saw my silly sketches being projected as artwork, and watched light patterns fall on my body," says the 37-year-old.

Fuelled by nostalgia

For Niveditha S, 28, kitchen sets that feature everything from miniature roti makers to tiny spatulas and glasses, occupy a space in her home. "As a child, I would take on the roles of imaginary characters while pretending to cook using my kitchen set," she recalls.

Dr Sugami Ramesh, clinical psychologist at a hospital on Bannerghatta Road, notes that nostalgia can offer a sense of comfort that people would want to dwell in. "Thus, they indulge in activities or purchase things that bring about that feeling," she says.

Collectibles on display at Fatcat Collectibles, Indiranagar.
PIC CREDIT: FATCAT COLLECTIBLES

Dhaval Krishna Chikane, founder and CEO of Fatcat Collectibles, has seen this firsthand. Dhaval, who is a collector himself, runs stores in Pune and Bengaluru, stocking everything from a Rs 169 Hot Wheels car to statues priced at Rs 10-14 lakh. His clients are largely adults in their 40s and 50s with a nostalgic connection to a character, film or television series. "Some of them may have watched a particular cartoon or movie with their family or childhood friends, and there are pieces in the store that can evoke a strong emotion," he says.

The joy of purchasing

A year after he started working, Lokavishruth K, 25, began collecting Hot Wheels cars and Pokémon cards. "The first purchase happened when I was running an errand and spotted a Hot Wheels car. I immediately bought it," he says. Now, he has six cars, all on display on his work desk. Alongside these, he also buys Pokémon cards regularly and currently owns 100 different ones.

Lokavishruth's Hot Wheels cars sitting atop his desk.

"It feels nice to buy these things at my will and as I please," he says.

Dhruva Santosh, an information security analyst, finds happiness in building LEGO sets. His prized possession is a Luke Skywalker helmet from the LEGO Star Wars range. "I got it during a sale for Rs 7,000. But the time it takes to build justifies the price," says the 26-year-old.

Sweekruthi Kaveripatnam, co-founder of Now Boarding Café, a board game café, has seen kidulting play out in a growing community. Since its opening in 2022, the café has gone from 200-300 visitors a month to 5,000 across two branches. "Customers spend nothing less than two and a half hours," she says.

Dr Sugami observes that adults today are under increasing pressure to be responsible and productive. "Kidulting offers a way to manage emotional stress," she says.

House party that accidentally went viral

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

On the surface, it looks like any other house party. Shoes pile up at the entrance, drinks flow freely, people gather in corners deep in conversation, and music hums in the background. But behind one of Bengaluru's most talked-about social gatherings is a surprisingly deliberate attempt to engineer serendipity.

Known simply as Bangerlore, the invite-only event has become a viral talking point online, with many questioning how a house party attended by around 250 people can remain exclusive while attracting some of the city's most influential founders, investors, lawyers and creatives.

The first gathering was held two-and-a-half years ago when a group of friends decided to bring together people from different parts of their lives — school friends, college friends, colleagues, founders and investors — under one roof. "Anything designed purely as a networking event becomes boring very quickly," says Neil Shroff, a 28-year-old lawyer, angel investor and one of the party's eight co-hosts. "But a party without any structure doesn't always lead to meaningful interactions either."

The answer was a hybrid party: Guests arrive at a six-bedroom home. While the evening feels informal, there are subtle systems in place: name tags, introductions and a carefully curated guest list. Around 800 people had expressed interest in attending the most recent party over the weekend, but only about 250 made the final cut.

The organisers aim for a specific mix; some are trusted friends, others are friends-of-friends, while a smaller percentage consists of newcomers to Bengaluru or people entirely outside the hosts' networks. Every attendee fills out a form describing what they do, who referred them and the kinds of people they hope to meet.

The event is entirely self-funded by the hosts. There are no tickets, sponsorships or paid entries. Those hoping to attend future editions can take a sneak peek on the Bangerlore website (bangerlore.com) and will likely need what many in Bengaluru value most — a warm introduction from a friend.

Remembering the trees we lost to rain

Bengalureans share the special place fallen trees held in their lives

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

In a city where trees are increasingly seen as obstacles to infrastructure projects or a nuisance for shedding leaves into a neighbour's compound, some people view them as companions. And when a beloved patch of green disappears, they say it takes with it small routines and a sense of comfort.

Bengalureans speak to *Metrolife* about losing their favourite trees in the recent spate of heavy rain. Some hugged the remaining stump to bid it goodbye; some took home fallen buds as keepsakes.

Moulmein rosewood growing behind H Soumya 's home in Ramamurthy Nagar inspired her to take up nature photography. Now five of these eight trees have fallen.

Community cats used to take shelter under this Jamaican cherry tree in Whitefield. The recent downpour knocked down its canopy.

'Witness to my life'

For Swapnesh Samaiya, evening walks have not felt the same since the rains knocked down a frangipani tree inside his apartment complex in Yeshwanthpur. Its fragrant white flowers were a daily source of delight. The game design faculty member would twirl fallen blooms between his fingers or tuck them behind his ears.

His college campus in Gandhinagar had a similar tree, and its familiar scent would transport him back to his younger days. Now, he is developing a game inspired by the fallen tree and another tree, "possibly an Arjuna", growing outside his balcony. It will explore themes of loneliness, identity and urban apathy. "I am new to the city. I don't know many people here. But these trees witness my daily life, my joys and struggles," he says.

'Emptiness hits hard'

During a morning jog, Lalitha Devi found the Jamaican cherry tree inside her gated society in Whitefield reduced to a stump. "When you see something so full of life every day and it's suddenly gone, the emptiness hits hard," says the lawyer. She used to feed cats that took shelter under it, and loved watching birds peck at its bright red fruit.

In spring, the Moulmein rosewood growing behind H Soumya's home in Ramamurthy Nagar would form a curtain of purple-pink blooms. The drooping flowers, buzzing with bees, butterflies and tiny birds, drew her to nature photography. She has now lost five of these eight trees to the downpour. "They grow back fast, so I am hoping the space will fill up again," says the 22-year-old.

For Aditi Parthasarthy's mother, a silver oak in front of their apartment in HAL 2nd Stage was a muse for her poems. The tree, which snapped recently, had been there even before Aditi was born 20 years ago. "It used to give us a sense of privacy. Now our lives feel different, a little 'exposed'. The view from our balcony is now of houses and bikes parked where the tree stood," says the law student.

Price of concretisation?

A fig tree outside Vinod Kartavya's house in Sampangi Rama Nagar fell four days ago. As a child, he played hide-and-seek behind it, used it as a cricket wicket, and tied ropes to its branches to make a swing. His family used to wake up to the chirping of sparrows, pigeons and parrots in its canopy. Now, the lane has just one tree, a golden trumpet, down from the 20 he remembers from childhood. The 42-year-old social activist wonders what will be left behind for the next generation to see.

He believes a lack of regular monitoring and the concretisation of roads, which may weaken roots, have contributed to some tree falls. Others like Kavita Udasi regard change as part of life. She lost a "large tree with nice orange flowers" that rose beside her apartment in Basaveshwara Nagar.

Cops arrest mother, live-in partner in 5-yr-old daughter's murder case

Woman was held at Sakleshpur homestay after week in hiding

BENGALURU, DHNS

Investigators are probing whether Priyanka's alleged dissatisfaction with her daughter's complexion may have been a factor in the motive behind the murder, according to preliminary findings.

Nearly a week after a woman and her live-in partner allegedly murdered her five-year-old daughter and went into hiding, the Kadugodi police arrested the accused, Priyanka, 39, from a homestay in Sakleshpur on Thursday.

A court later remanded her to five days of police custody for further interrogation.

According to the police, Priyanka, an advocate, fled Bengaluru soon after a murder case was registered against her. Investigators said she initially travelled to Mysuru before shifting to Sakleshpur in an attempt to evade arrest.

The breakthrough came after police tracked down Chiranth, a civil engineer and close friend of Mohan GM, 40, the prime accused in the case.

Police said Chiranth helped Priyanka escape from Bengaluru following Mohan's arrest and accompanied her on a bus journey to Sakleshpur in Hassan district.

Investigators found that Chiranth had arranged accommodation for Priyanka at a homestay owned by one of his acquaintances. The location was chosen because it was far from Bengaluru and less likely to attract attention.

Priyanka and Mohan GM

Key updates

- Police arrested Priyanka from a homestay in Sakleshpur nearly a week after she allegedly went into hiding following a murder case registration.
- She was produced before court and remanded to 5 days of police custody for further interrogation into the conspiracy and motive behind the crime.
- Investigators say Priyanka fled Bengaluru after the case was filed, travelling via Mysuru before settling in Sakleshpur to avoid arrest.

Acting on this information, a five-member police team, including women personnel, reached the homestay where Priyanka had been staying.

Police said Priyanka was asleep when officers arrived. She was reportedly taken by surprise and broke down upon seeing the police team.

"She started crying and repeatedly claimed that she was innocent," a senior police officer said.

Following her arrest, Priyanka was produced before a magistrate court.

Seeking her custody, investigators told the court that they needed to question her about the circumstances leading to the child's death, the alleged conspiracy behind the crime, and the motive for the murder.

The court subsequently remanded her to five days of police custody.

Vennila's death

The case pertains to the death of five-year-old Vennila, daughter of Priyanka and Praveen B.

Police had earlier arrested Mohan, a realtor from Seegehalli, in connection with the murder.

Vennila was found dead under suspicious circumstances on March 25.

Initially, the police registered a case of unnatural death. However, after the post-mortem examination revealed evidence suggesting foul play, a murder investigation was launched.

During the investigation, Mohan allegedly confessed to killing the child by assaulting and smothering her inside a car. According to police, the incident occurred after he had taken Vennila out for a biryani dinner near Hosakote to celebrate Priyanka's birthday.

Investigators suspect that Priyanka was aware of the murder and may have been part of the conspiracy. Her contradictory statements during the inquiry raised suspicion, prompting the child's father, Praveen, to approach the police and allege foul play in his daughter's death.

Gold smuggling attempt foiled; Rs 1.37-cr worth of gold paste seized at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS

Customs officials arrested a passenger arriving from Dubai at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on June 10 after seizing 899.50 grams of smuggled gold paste.

A senior official said customs officials intercepted K Majeed, who hails from Kannur in Kerala, upon arrival from Dubai on Wednesday.

During inspection, officers recovered the 24-carat gold concealed inside four capsules.

Airport customs officers seized 899.50 grams of 24-carat gold concealed as gold paste in four capsules.

The seized gold is valued at Rs 1.37 crore.

Officials arrested the passenger under the provisions of the Customs Act. An investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the smuggled gold and the association of the passenger with the smuggling network.

With the gold market being volatile, authorities expect smuggling attempts to increase during the coming months. "Our officers are on high alert. We are prepared and are on the lookout to ensure all attempts are intercepted," said the official.

Ramraj Cotton opens new showroom in Doddaballapura

Sri Dheeraj Muniraj, MLA, Doddaballapura Assembly Constituency and State Youth President (BYJM) inaugurated the store

Ramraj Cotton, one of India's leading traditional wear brands, has opened a new showroom in Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural. The showroom was inaugurated by Sri Dheeraj Muniraj, MLA, Doddaballapura Assembly Constituency and State Youth President (BYJM). The ceremonial lamp lighting and first purchase were performed by Mr Hulikal Natraj, Member, Karnataka Science and Technology Academy.

Welcoming the gathering, Ramraj Cotton Founder and Chairman Shri K R Nagarajan highlighted the company's commitment to preserving Indian traditions while innovating to meet changing consumer preferences. Over the years, Ramraj Cotton has emerged as a leading name in traditional attire across South India and has expanded its presence in major cities. The company also serves customers worldwide through its online platform and exports products to countries including Sri Lanka, Singapore and Malaysia.

The new showroom offers products like dhotis with fancy borders, stain-guard, wrinkle-free, perfumed, silk, panchakacham and special occasion wear. Customers can also choose from cotton, linen, designer, embroidery and silk shirts, along with T-shirts, innerwear, towels, socks and accessories. The store also features products for women and children, including sarees, kurtis and ethnic wear collections.

DH Ramraj Cotton

Known for its philosophy of "Quality Without Compromise", the brand has built a strong reputation for combining traditional attire with contemporary styling. Innovative collections such as GenXT, Little Star and dhoti-border matching shirts have helped the brand connect with younger consumers while preserving the timeless appeal of the dhoti.

With air-conditioned exclusive showrooms and an expanding retail presence across major cities and airports in South India, Ramraj Cotton continues to strengthen its position as one of India's most recognised traditional wear brands. The company extended its gratitude to customers for their continued support and reiterated its commitment to delivering quality products rooted in tradition and cultural heritage.

Address:
No 16, D Cross Road, Ward No. 5, Chikkapet, opposite SBI Bank, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural – 561203

Curated by DH Brandspot

STRR project stuck in PMO, no full launch before 2029

Clearances in place, but Union Cabinet approval pending for 144-km stretch

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

A view of the Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) in Doddaballapur taluk. Of the total 282 km, only 80 km is currently operational. DH FILE PHOTO

The remaining 144.25-km stretch of the Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), including the section through the Bannerghatta forest, has been pending in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for 18 months despite securing all required wildlife and environmental clearances.

There is also no clarity on the project deadline, which was earlier pushed from 2025 to 2026. Even if the PMO clears the project this year, the project is unlikely to complete before 2029.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has repeatedly extended bid submission deadlines for the two-package tenders it floated in January 2025.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar raised the issue in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday.

The letter noted that the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC), under the Ministry of Finance, had cleared the project on January 1, 2025, but it was still stuck in the PMO.

The STRR is an access-controlled highway that will eventually encircle Bengaluru and eliminate the need for long-distance heavy vehicles to enter the city.

Of its total length of 282.3 km, only 80 km is operational between Dobbspet and Hoskote. Two other sections — a 20.9-km stretch from Hoskote to the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border and a 35.45-km section falling entirely in Tamil Nadu — are under construction.

The remaining 144.25-km section includes a 3.85-km flyover through the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP).

Tenders refloated in January 2025 had split the section into two packages.

The first package — a 79-km section from Obalapura (Nelamangala taluk) to Kunagal (Ramanagara taluk) — is estimated to cost Rs 2,642.4 crore.

The second package — a 65.25-km section from Kunagal (Ramanagara taluk) to S Mudugadapalli (Hosur taluk) — is estimated to cost Rs 2,279.17 crore.

The new bid submission deadline for both packages is June 22.

The project cost has risen from Rs 4,749.74 crore to Rs 4,921.57 crore after the proposed carriageway was expanded from four lanes to six.

Vilas P Brahmankar, NHAI's Regional Officer in Bengaluru, said the final alignment had been submitted to the Centre and all statutory clearances had been obtained.

"We've received the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) clearance, as well as Stage 1 and Stage 2 forest clearances. Clearances from the railways are also in place. We're awaiting cabinet approval to open and finalise the bids and award the contracts. The process shouldn't take more than three months after cabinet approval," he told *DH*.

As part of the forest clearance process, the NHAI has also received a demand notice to deposit about Rs 12 crore with the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), which manages funds collected when forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes and uses them for afforestation, wildlife protection and ecological restoration.

"It'll be a government-to-government transaction. We'll make the payment once the clearance comes through," he added.

Both packages will be executed under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), under which the Centre will fund 40% of the construction cost, while the remaining 60% will be paid to the concessionaire as annuities, along with interest, during the operation period.

Contractors will have 912 days to complete the work.

Rowdy shot in the leg after he attacks cop in escape bid

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 19-year-old rowdy-sheeter with cases of murder, extortion, robbery and dacoity against him was shot in the leg after he attacked a policeman in Singena Agrahara on Thursday.

The accused, Jeeva, residing in Tirupalya in Hebbagodi, attacked the constable with a sharp weapon when a police team attempted to capture him.

He is also wanted by the Tamil Nadu police for several criminal cases.

Jeeva was one of the accused in robbery cases reported in the Hebbagodi and Electronics City areas last week, a senior police officer said.

Acting on information that Jeeva was holed up in a grove, a Hebbagodi police team, led by Inspector Somashekhar, swooped down on the hideout.

Jeeva

When the team attempted to nab him, Jeeva attacked constable Nagesh. As the attack continued, Sub-Inspector Ayyappa opened fire, injuring Jeeva in the leg. He was overpowered, taken into custody and shifted to a nearby hospital for first aid, before being taken back into custody for further interrogation.

Jeeva had been absconding for a few weeks and was wanted in several serious offences.

Hebbagodi police have registered a case against him for attacking police during the arrest. The investigation is underway.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Labour Department: World Day Against Child Labour; DK Shivakumar, G Parameshwara, PC Mohan, Rizwan Arshad and Michiko Miyamoto; Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium; 8.30 am.

Dr Babu Jagajeevanram Research Institute: Awareness programme for manual scavengers; CG Lakshmipati, RV Chandrashekhar and others; South India Regional Institute of English, Jnanabharathi; 9.30 am.

BM Sri Foundation: Lecture on women vachanakaras by Kusuma CR; MVC Hall, BM Sri Kalabhavana, NR Colony; 5 pm.

Azim Premji University: Remembering GS Shivarudrappa; K Marulasiddappa, GS Jayadev, SG Siddaramaiah and others; Indian Institute of World Culture; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Samagata Foundation and others: Staging of Usha Kattemane's play 'Angara' by Punaha Theatre, directed by Abhinav Grover; Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; 11 am.

Ammana Madilu Social Cultural Trust: Staging of the play 'Varabhrashta'; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavana, JP Road; 5 pm.

Bengaluru Gayana Samaja: Music by Davuluri Srividya, Shankarshanan Srikanth, Skanda Manjunath, Apoorva Hemmige Arun, Kushal BR, BS Samartha, Sunidhi Prasad and others; Gayana Samaja, KR Road; 5.15 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Ragigudda Sri Prasanna Anjaneyaswami Bhaktamandali Trust: Discourse on 'Vidura Neeti' by Kadur Sridharacharya; Trust premises, Jayanagar; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	21.5°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	65%
Sunset (June 12)	6:46 pm
Sunrise (June 13)	5:53 am
Moonrise	2:03 am
Moonset	2:52 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

CONCERTS

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha will host a Carnatic vocal concert by Sai Vignesh on Saturday at 5.30 pm at Purandara Bhavana, 8th Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage. Vignesh will be accompanied by Thirucherai Karthik (violin), SJ Arjun Ganesh (mridangam), and Shamith Gowda (ghatam).

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will organise a vocal concert by Anirudh Subramanian accompanied by Keshav Mohankumar (violin), Akshay Anand (mridanga), and ASN Swamy (khanjira). It will be held at 5.30 pm on Saturday at 9th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, a news release said.

Couple killed in collision between motorcycle, gas lorry

BENGALURU, DHNS : A young couple died on Thursday after their bike collided with an LPG gas cylinder-laden lorry near the northern Bengaluru neighbourhood of Goraguntepalya.

Shabraz (28) and his 24-year-old wife Shabreen, both Nagarabhavi residents, were riding on their bike towards the city from Nelamangala. The Yeshwantpur traffic police said the lorry suddenly swerved from the road's right side to the left at TMT Junction.

"The lorry driver lost control due to brake failure. It hit the bike and dragged it along the road," said a police officer.

The couple had been dragged on for about 50 metres. Both died coming under the tyres of the heavy vehicle. Police later restored the traffic and sent the bodies to the hospital. They have registered a case and are interrogating the driver.

The wreckage of the motorcycle involved in the fatal accident at Goraguntepalya.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/183/2026 Dated: 15-05-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Annual Maintenance of of IPMS Software at South Western Railway Construction Office Bengaluru. (Tender Ref. No: BNC-IPMS-AMC-2026)	Rs. 37,80,000/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	Modified
09-06-2026 (15:00 Hrs)	16-06-2026 (15:00 Hrs)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/203/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ENGG-03/26-27 (Open), dated 09.06.2026 (Capital Tender). E-tenders are invited by the Chief Works Manager, Eastern Railway, Kanchrapara Workshop, North 24 Parganas, P.O. - Kanchrapara, Pin-743145 (WB) through website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed contractors with sufficient experience and financial capability who have executed similar nature of work in the past preferably with Railway/CPWD/PWD/MES/Irrigation or any other Public Sector Undertaking for the following works : **Sl.No. 1, Tender No. : WT-05-26-27. Description of Work :** AT KPAW - Renovation work for provision of Rest Room/Ladies common room for staffs at various locations of Loco & Carriage complex. **Tender value :** Rs. 1,90,06,133.31. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 3,80,100/-. **Sl.No. 2, Tender No.: WT-06-26-27. Description of Work :** AT KPAW - Provision of Centre of Excellence at Shop No. 15 & 26 Carriage Complex, Kanchrapara Workshop. **Tender value :** Rs. 1,66,03,921.89. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 3,32,100/-. **Cost of tender document :** Nil for each. **Competion period from the date of issuance of PO :** 12 months for each. **Date of opening of tender :** 03.07.2026. The scope of work is indicative only. However, details can be viewed at Indian Railway e-tendering site (IREPS) i.e. **https://www.ireps.gov.in** Tender will be closed on 03.07.2026 at 14.00 hrs. and tender will be opened on the same date at any time after 14.30 hrs. as per availability of opening personnel and net accebility. (MISC-71/2026-27)
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Publics are hereby informed that my client **M/s DS-Max Properties Pvt. Ltd.**, Having its Office at No. # 1794, 14th Main, 30th Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore-560 043 have intend to enter into **Absolute Sale Deed** with the Owners **Smt D.Menaka** d/o Late M.S.Devaraj w/o Sri Ravi Shanakar.S is the absolute owner of site property bearing **Municipal No-16**, old **314**, **PID No.99-14-16,** situated at 15th cross, Palace Orchards, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore, New Ward No.35 of **Northern Half Portion**, measuring East to West: **61 feet.**, and North to South : **20 feet.**, which measuring **1,220 Sq. Ft** of schedule property **Item No. I**.
WHEREAS Smt D.Swarnalakshmi d/o Late M.S.Devaraj w/o Sri Santhosh Chigateri is the absolute owner of site property bearing **Municipal No-16**, old **314**, **PID No.99-14-16**, situated at 15th cross, Palace Orchards, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore, New Ward No.35 of **Southern Half Portion**, measuring East to West: **61 feet.**, and North to South : **20 feet.**, which measuring **1,220 Sq. Ft**, of schedule property **Item No. II**.
which total measuring of **Item No. I & II = 1,220 + 1,220 = 2,440 sq.ft** and commonly bounded on: **E:** Site No.302 & 303, **W:** Road, **N:** Site No.313, **S:** Site No.315 and referred to as **"composite schedule property"**.
Any family members or Any legal heir's of family members or Any person connecting to the family claims having any asserting right, title, interest and claims to oppose for Absolute Sale Deed of property and further having any manner of right, title, claims etc., and may lodge their objections, claims over the property along with relevant papers in support of their claims, right to the below address within **15** days from the date of this notice, if any objections fails to comply from any family members or any legal heir's claims and my client shall take further steps and shall be entering into Absolute Sale Deed of property.
LINGARAJ. S. NADAGOUDA., ADVOCATE
No.1854, 17th Main, 30th 'B' Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 043.
Mob : 96204 74780 , 94481 35970

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work : **Name of work:** Zonal Contract for Up-Keep of track and track bed of Both UP & DN Line from km 12/02 to km 16/18 between KNBN (In) to KMUK (In) including Tollygunge Yard and Carshed lines of Metro Railway, Kolkata up to June 2028. **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 2,19,19,604.50, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 4,38,400/- **Completion Period:** Twenty Four (24) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 03.07.2026 at 12:00 Hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. **Abridged e-Tender Notice No. : Civil-2591-2026 (Open)**
Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 03/2027/SBC Dated: 05-06-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender.No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
L8265988	Digital Radiography System with CAMC Condition Qty- 01 No.	29-06-2026 10:30 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/199/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

S.E. Railway Scrap Sale Through E-Auction
No. SER/HQ-STOR0SALE(DSPL)/1/2026-27/SALE/2 Dated : 09.06.2026
E-Auction Programme for the month of July, August, September-2026
Auction Programme 2nd Quarter - 2026-27

Month	Division and Depot				
	Adra Division	Kharagpur Depot	Chakradharpur Division	Kharagpur Division	Ranchi Division
July 2026	06.07.2026	07.07.2026	01.07.2026	02.07.2026	03.07.2026
	13.07.2026	14.07.2026	08.07.2026	09.07.2026	10.07.2026
	20.07.2026	21.07.2026	15.07.2026	16.07.2026	17.07.2026
	27.07.2026	28.07.2026	22.07.2026	23.07.2026	24.07.2026
			29.07.2026	30.07.2026	31.07.2026
August 2026	03.08.2026	04.08.2026	05.08.2026	06.08.2026	07.08.2026
	10.08.2026	11.08.2026	12.08.2026	13.08.2026	14.08.2026
	17.08.2026	18.08.2026	19.08.2026	20.08.2026	21.08.2026
	24.08.2026	25.08.2026	24.08.2026	25.08.2026	28.08.2026
	31.08.2026	28.08.2026	26.08.2026	27.08.2026	
September 2026	07.09.2026	01.09.2026	02.09.2026	03.09.2026	04.09.2026
	14.09.2026	08.09.2026	09.09.2026	10.09.2026	11.09.2026
	21.09.2026	15.09.2026	16.09.2026	17.09.2026	18.09.2026
	28.09.2026	22.09.2026	23.09.2026	24.09.2026	25.09.2026
		29.09.2026	30.09.2026		

N.B. : Please visit website: **www.ireps.gov.in/e-Auction** for details of e-Auction schedule and Catalogue.
(PR-305) Principal Chief Materials Manager/Garden Reach
South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No. BE-29-2026-27-OT-03 (Through E-Tendering)
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Tender No	Description in Work	Approx. Value	Tender Closing Date Time
BE-29-2026 -27-OT-03	1) Bengaluru-Tumakuru -Sampige Road Section- Proposed construction of ROB at LC.No. 50 @KM:85/700-800 42m composite Girder. 2) Proposed construction of RUB at LC gate No.48 @kM 81/500-600 between Mallasandra and Gubbi stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yasvantpur sub division. 3) Bengaluru-Tumakuru - Sampige Road Section-Proposed limited height subway at old LC43 (RUB N0.297 B At KM:73/000-100 near Bheemasandra - RCC box of size 1x5x2.25 by rolling/ launching method. 4) Yasvantpur-Sampige Road Section-Proposed subway at old Shettyhalli gate KM 67/700-800 near Shettyhalli- (Bridge No.308-D) RCC box of size 1x4x2.25 by rolling/launching method. 5) Provision of Lifts at Gauribidanur Railway station for PF-1 & PF2 & 3. 6) Provision of two escalators (down direction) at PF-1 & PF-2&3 of Kengeri railway station. (PID: 14.01.53.25.3.50.008) 7) Jolarpettai-Bengaluru Section- Proposed Pedestrian subways to facilitate crossing of railway alignment by cattle, pedestrians and smaller vehicles in various locations as RCC Box of size 1x5mx2.65m (Barrel length = 18.36 mtrs) by Rolling/Launching method. 8) Bengaluru-Sampige Road Section- Proposed Pedestrian subways to facilitate crossing of railway alignment by cattle, pedestrians and smaller vehicles in various locations as RCC Box of size 1x5mx2.65m (Barrel length = 18.36 mtrs) by Rolling/Launching method (total 11 Nos). 9) Yasvantpur-Yelahanka Section- Proposed pedestrain subway at Sahakara Nagara at Km 13/200-300 near NTI layout- RCC box of size 1x4x2.25 by rolling/launching method in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yasvantpur sub-Division. 10) Provision of DG sets at Running Rooms and crew rest rooms over Bengaluru Division. 11) Improvement of illumination in tunnel (600m length) near TASA at KM 42/750 - 43/350- Electrical arrangements. 12) Bengaluru-Sampige Road Section - Proposed extension of FOB at Nidvanda station to accommodate Road-1A with stair & lift. 13) Implementation of Investment Grade Energy Audit (IGEA) recommendations at 30 locations over Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 1,52,42,705.54	24-06-2026 / 15:00 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in, Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
PUB/197/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General /Bengaluru
Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Restore Bengaluru-Shivamogga flight, M B Patil urges Centre

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil has sought restoration of air connectivity between Bengaluru and Shivamogga, and urged the Centre to include the route in the upcoming bidding process under UDAN.

In a letter to Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, Patil stated that the flight service was vital for the economic and social development of the Malnad region and several districts in Central Karnataka. He requested the Centre to facilitate the inclusion of the Bengaluru–Shivamogga route under the scheme with support through viability gap funding.

Commercial operations at Shivamogga airport began in Feb 2023, with IndiGo operating flights between Bengaluru and Shivamogga.

However, the service has remained suspended for the past few months owing to financial losses.

Patil noted that the route plays an important role in supporting growth of sectors like agriculture, tourism, industry and trade across districts.

The suspension has also affected travellers who rely on Bengaluru as a gateway to domestic and international destinations, the minister said.

The minister said work on providing night-landing facilities was progressing rapidly at the airport.

Public exams may return for class 7 or 8 from this year

'To improve class 10 results, instil seriousness in teachers'

Students failing initial exam will have to attend bridge course during summer vacation, followed by a re-exam. Those passing the re-exam will move to the next grade.

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The department of school education and literacy is planning a fresh attempt to introduce board/public exams for class 7 or 8 from the current academic year.

The department has taken the decision considering the poor learning outcomes of students. If private schools raise objections, it will be implemented for government and aided schools, department officials said.

For this, the government is amending the Right to Education (RTE) rules based on the Centre's decision in 2019, scrapping no detention policy and empowering states to conduct exams for classes 5 and 8.

This move by the department comes two years after the Supreme Court disallowed the government's plan to hold board exams for summative assessment of students in classes 5, 8 and 9. A similar attempt in 2019-20 failed, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As explained by officials, conducting exams will help students perform better in class 10.

"Not just students, there is a need to instil seriousness in teachers too. Several surveys revealed that both students and teachers are not serious as there is no exam or detention," an official said.

In fact, this is one of the demands of the Karnataka State High School Assistant Masters Association.

The association expressed on various occasions the need to filter students at the class 7, based on their learning level.

"In some cases, we are teaching alphabets instead of lessons at class 8. This is affecting results of government schools in SSLC. We urge the government to even allow detention along with exams," said a representative of the association.

The Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka has also welcomed the plan and urged the department to detain under-performing students after exams.

RASHMI MAHESH
Additional chief secretary, department of school education and literacy

> We are planning to introduce board/public exam for this academic year for class 7 or 8. This is to strengthen learning outcomes.

The plan

As per information available, question papers will be prepared by the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board and evaluation will be done at district level. Those lagging behind will be enlisted for bridge course during summer vacation, followed by another exam before moving to next grade.

What 2019 amendment says?

If a student fails, re-examination has to be conducted and state governments are authorised to decide whether the school should hold back the child in class 5 or class 8 after the exam.

The original no-detention policy was implemented to prevent students from dropping out due to stigma of failing.

The 2019 amendment to the RTE Act was introduced to restore accountability and improve student learning outcomes. If a child fails the initial exam, the school must provide additional instruction and conduct re-examination within two months of the results.

Govt issues order on free bus pass scheme for male students

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government on Thursday issued an official order on modalities of the free bus pass scheme for male students.

The passes will be issued to students residing and enrolled in educational institutions in Karnataka, those residing in Karnataka and studying in educational institutions in neighbouring states, as well as those residing in neighbouring states (in border areas) and studying in educational institutions within Karnataka.

As per the order, the state's four road transport corporations will continue to follow the existing rules governing student bus passes.

Students can apply online through the Seva Sindhu portal.

Before the scheme, only girl students could travel for free on government buses under the Shakti scheme. D K Shivakumar announced the scheme for male students on June 3, shortly after being sworn in as Karnataka's new chief minister. The scheme is expected to benefit over 10 lakh students.

Student bus passes were already subsidised. The government contributes 50% of the cost, the RTCs 25%, and students the remaining 25%. However, bus pass rates have not been revised since 2012-13, while bus fares have increased multiple times during the same period. As a result, students effectively pay only 7% of the actual cost.

The scheme will cost Rs 286.08 crore. The government will also bear processing charges of Rs 100 per pass and an accident compensation fund contribution of Rs 50 per pass (Rs 5 per month), totalling an estimated Rs 15 crore, payable to the four corporations. Between May 30, 2026 and June 9, 2026, the four corporations issued 19,792 bus passes to male students for the 2026–27 academic year. These passes will remain valid and students will get a refund within 15 days.

Tiptur MLA Shadakshari admitted to Delhi hospital

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Tiptur Congress MLA K Shadakshari was admitted to a private hospital here on Thursday after his health deteriorated while he was in the national capital to lobby for a ministerial berth.

Sources said Shadakshari, who was staying at Karnataka Bhavan, developed sudden breathing difficulties, prompting immediate attention. He was shifted to hospital with the assistance of Deputy CM G Parameshwara and Congress leader R Rajendra.

Prestige group to invest Rs 1,800 crore in Airport City

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Prestige Group and Bengaluru Airport City Limited (BACL) on Thursday unveiled plans for a 1.5 million sqft mixed use development within the Bengaluru Airport City precincts.

The development, planned on a 14.2-acre parcel near Kempegowda International Airport, will entail investment of around Rs 1,800 crore. The project is expected to become operational by 2031. Construction is set to commence by early 2027.

Anchored by a convention and exhibition centre, the mixed use development will include luxury hotels, office space, retail and food outlets, as well as a performing arts space, with a proposed seating capacity of 2,500.

Designed by global architecture firm Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF), the development is set to draw inspiration from Bengaluru's dual identity as a garden city and a centre for technology and innovation.

Sustainability considerations have been integrated into the design through a large architectural canopy that will support solar power generation, rainwater harvesting and noise mitigation, the KPF team said. The canopy is also intended to improve thermal comfort across outdoor public spaces.

The hospitality component is expected to feature the Marriott Marquis and St Regis brands, subject to approvals, shared Irfan Razack, chairman and managing director of Prestige Group.

"It would have been wonderful to do even residential as a mixed-use. But the concession agreement of the airport authority doesn't allow it and also because it's on leased land. So, any residential development that is happening should be outside this. Prestige has done a lot of residential work in the northern part of the city. It's a continuous process," he said.

The project forms part of the larger Airport City initiative being developed by BACL on land adjoining the airport.

About 110 acres out of the 450-acre Airport City have already been developed or are under development, said Hari Marar, managing director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

Conceived as a economic hub, the Airport City is expected to house commercial offices, entertainment venues, healthcare facilities and educational institutions, among other projects.

Marar said the airport ecosystem has the potential to accommodate 15-18 million square feet of office space and between 4,500 and 5,200 hotel rooms over the long term.

KSTDC rolls out weekend-friendly D'sthala-Kukke tour packages

BENGALURU, DHNS: To cater to Bengaluru residents heading to coastal Karnataka's prominent religious hubs, the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) has announced the launch of a new weekend-friendly tour package connecting Dharmasthala and Kukke Subrahmanya.

The initial rollout of the service is scheduled to commence on June 13 using a fleet of deluxe buses. Based on public response and passenger footfall, tourism officials have indicated plans to scale up the service to a daily frequency in the coming months.

The itinerary is structured for efficiency. On Day 1, tourists will arrive in Dharmasthala by 10 pm for an overnight stay. Day 2 begins with an 8 am darshan at the Sri Manjunatha Swamy Temple, followed by visits to the Southadka Maha Ganapathi Temple and Kukke Shri Subrahmanya Temple, before the return journey begins at 3.30 pm.

"To encourage religious tourism, special quick-darshan arrangements have been facilitated at both major temples," said M Srinivas, chairman of KSTDC. He added that a dedicated KSTDC guide will accompany the tourists to ensure safety and seamless local coordination. Bookings are now open on the official portal (https://kstdc.co/).

Two packages

To accommodate varying budgets, KSTDC has introduced two pricing tiers - Premium package costing Rs 4,450 (per person) with executive hotel stay and breakfast, and Budget package costing Rs 3,450 (per person) with standard economy lodging.

CONNECT Classifieds

Heartiest Wishes on Your 5th Birthday
HAYAVADAN .R
May your life always be filled with happiness, good health, success and countless blessings.
Best Wishes From:
Father: Ravikumar .H. K
Mother: Deepika .H. V
And Mr. Halu Kondappa & Family
Hirandahalli, Bengaluru – 560049

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANKITA AHUJA,** residing at Flat No. B-902, NCC Ivory Heights, Sathya Sai Layout, B.Narayanapura, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru- 560016 have changed my name to **ANKITA BHARGAVA** vide affidavit dated 11-06-2026 sworn before notary K.Venkateshan, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **ANKITA BHARGAVA** only.

I SOMESH S/O, Shivasharanappa Gobbur R/o H No 4-601/20/390 Ii Nd Cross, Sedam Road, Near Kgb Bank, M B Nagar, Gulbarga, Po: Gb M.b.nagar, Dist: Gulbarga, Karnataka, 585105 have changed my name to Somesh S Gobbur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **UMA MALLAPPA SAJJANAR** Residing at No. 1370, 10th Cross, 2nd Stage, K S Town, Bengaluru-560060, have changed my name to **UMA SAJJANAR** vide affidavit dated 11.06.2026 before Notary Ravi, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as **UMA SAJJANAR** only.

I, KEKA MUKERJEE spouse of 656434N Rank Ex-Sgt GOPAL MUKHERJEE resident of No.12, 1st Main Ayyappa Nagar Kodigehalli Bengaluru-560036 Karnataka Have corrected my Date of Birth from 06-01-1969 to 03-01-1969 vide affidavit dated 09-06-2026 and notary Mr.Manjunath.T (20053)Bengaluru.

I SOMESH S/O, Shivasharanappa Gobbur R/o H No 4-601/20/390 Ii Nd Cross, Sedam Road, Near Kgb Bank, M B Nagar, Gulbarga, Po: Gb M.b.nagar, Dist: Gulbarga, Karnataka, 585105 have changed my name to Somesh S Gobbur.

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **NAGARAJARADHYA BASAVARADHYA,** R/at # 4, Palace Cross Road, 1st Cross, Chakravarthy Layout, Bangalore-560020, hereby state and declare that I have lost my **Original Share Certificate of Hindustan Lever Limited. Identification No. 5158413-250 While in transit: Finders Please Contact: 7899238816**

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I wanted to be sports minister, says Satish Jarkiholi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi said Thursday that he wanted the youth empowerment & sports portfolio as an additional responsibility.

Satish Jarkiholi

"I have always been into sports. Even to this day, I conduct sporting events in Belagavi by spending Rs 50 lakh. Karnataka can become number one in sports. Even in the Dharam Singh government, I had asked for the sports department," Satish told reporters.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has allocated the department of youth empowerment and sports to his deputy G Parameshwara.

CM seeks Centre's aid for Bengaluru infrastructure

Says 40% people in K'taka capital are migrants

NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a notable shift from his predecessor Siddaramaiah's confrontational approach with the BJP-led government at the Centre, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday emphasised on cooperative federalism and signalled his government's readiness to work closely with the union government.

Addressing the meeting of the governing council of NITI Aayog here, the Vokkaliga leader described Bengaluru as a major growth hub of India and urged the allocation of additional infrastructural grants to meet the rising demands triggered by large-scale migration.

Highlighting that around 40% of Bengaluru's residents were migrants from other states, Shivakumar sought enhanced financial assistance from the Centre to overhaul infrastructure in the IT capital.

"We have requested the sanction of Rapid Rail Transit Systems to connect central Bengaluru with neighbouring satellite towns and cities like Kolar, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Chikkaballapur," Shivakumar said.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar calls on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI PHOTO

His predecessor Siddaramaiah had boycotted the 2024 meeting to protest the alleged neglect of the state in the union budget. In 2025, he skipped the event again, with his speech — which criticised the Centre's policies for devolution of funds — being read out.

Shivakumar, however, in his address steered clear of criticism and focused on highlighting Karnataka's growth story at the meeting.

"The vision of inclusive human development can only be realised through cooperative federalism, collaborative governance and collective national effort. States are not merely implementing agencies, but hubs of innovation and cumulative growth," Shivakumar said.

Karnataka remains fully committed to partnering with the Centre to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth, he affirmed.

The CM pointed out that the state had identified and begun implementing infrastructure projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore in Bengaluru to improve mobility and make the city more climate-resilient.

He sought higher central support under the urban challenge fund or other mechanisms to execute these programmes.

Highlighting the guarantee schemes, Shivakumar said the model had been widely replicated by many states as it significantly improved quality of human capital.

DKS meets Modi, demands fast approval for river projects

Notify final award of Krishna tribunal, urges DKS

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expedite approval for Karnataka's major inter-state river water projects and sought substantial central funding for infrastructure and backward areas development.

Shivakumar met the PM on the sidelines of the Niti Aayog governing council meeting at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

This was his first meeting with the PM after taking charge as chief minister.

Shivakumar said he had a "constructive discussion" with Modi on Karnataka's development priorities, including infrastructure, investment, urban mobility, irrigation, innovation and welfare initiatives that directly impact lives of people.

The CM said Karnataka had always been a key contributor to India's growth story and he reiterated the state government's commitment to further strengthening that role.

In a memorandum to Modi, Shivakumar pressed for early clearance for the Mekedatu and Kalasa-Bhanduri drinking water and irrigation projects, both of which are pending approval from the Central Water Commission.

He requested Modi to direct the Jal Shakti Ministry to issue a notification on the final award of the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal, enabling Karnataka to utilise its allocated water share.

On the financial front, Shivakumar sought Rs 26,000 crore for infrastructure projects in Bengaluru. He requested the release of funds for Upper Bhadra project, along with a special package of Rs 25,000 crore for development works in Kalyana Karnataka region.

Additionally, the CM appealed for central support for Bengaluru's suburban railway projects and sanctioning of Bengaluru-Mumbai high-speed rail corridor.

The Vokkaliga leader also sought 40–50 thousand million cubic (tmc) feet of water for Karnataka under the inter-state river linking project.

Later, Shivakumar met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and requested the release of Rs 2,860 crore from the 15th Finance Commission grants for the state's gram panchayats.

Hariprasad meets Rahul

Newly appointed state Congress president B K Hariprasad called on Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, reports DHNS from Delhi.

This is his first meeting with Rahul after becoming the state president.

"We held extensive consultations on party organization," Hariprasad posted on X.

These farmers, who won the award, manage small bamboo plantations.

Rare award for bamboo farmers' federation

BENGALURU, DHNS: Industree Foundation has become the first organisation in the country to secure Forest Stewardship Council Forest Management Certification for privately owned bamboo plantations managed by smallholder farmers.

Awarded by SCS Global Services, the certification covers 6,671 small and marginal women farmers across 1,112.9 hectares spanning Shivamogga, Hassan and Chikkamagaluru, many cultivating bamboo on fragmented, barren, and distributed plots.

The inclusive model is said to be the clincher for the award, which usually goes to large, consolidated forest estates.

Govt appeals for Centre's assistance under urban challenge fund

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has sought financial assistance of Rs 2,777 crore from the Centre's Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) for a set of infrastructure projects in Bengaluru, including an elevated corridor, new sewage treatment plants and two packages of the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR).

The proposals, with a combined project cost of Rs 13,549 crore, have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for approval.

The Urban Challenge Fund is a new financing mechanism introduced by the Union government to support large-scale urban infrastructure projects.

In a letter dated May 6, the state government informed the Centre that the proposed projects were at an advanced stage of implementation and meet the eligibility criteria prescribed under the UCF guidelines.

On Wednesday, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar met Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to accord sanction on priority and release funds at the earliest.

The largest proposal is an elevated corridor project, estimated to cost Rs 6,287.57 crore. Karnataka will contribute Rs 1,257.5 crore, while the state has sought an equal amount under the UCF.

The government has also sought UCF support of Rs 337.5 crore for the construction of nine new sewage treatment plants costing Rs 1,350 crore. For the Peripheral Ring Road, the state has requested funds for two packages amounting to Rs 1,182.4 crore.

The state government told the Centre that all the projects had received necessary approvals and financial tie-ups had already been secured. It assured MoHUA that the projects would be executed in a fast-track mode and that the funds would be utilised expeditiously once sanctions are granted.

Special train from Bilaspur-Cantt

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South East Central Railway (SECR) will operate a one-way special train from Bilaspur to Bengaluru Cantonment.

Train number 08263 will depart from Bilaspur at 2 pm on June 12, and arrive at Bengaluru Cantonment at 8 pm on June 13.

Kharge, 3 others elected to Rajya Sabha unopposed

BENGALURU, DHNS: Four Rajya Sabha nominees, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, were elected unopposed on Thursday.

Pawan Khera, Mansoor Ali Khan of Congress and BJP's M Nagaraja have been elected alongside Kharge to the Rajya Sabha.

Elections were announced to fill up four Rajya Sabha seats going vacant later this month: Iranna Kadadi, Narayana Koragappa (BJP), Kharge and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda of the JD(S).

Five candidates had filed nomination papers. During scrutiny, however, the nomination of Bhojanna Somayya, an independent candidate, was rejected. Accordingly, the remaining four were declared as "duly elected".

Congratulating the Congress nominees, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said: "I am confident that they will champion Karnataka's interests in Parliament, effectively voicing the aspirations of our people and working towards the state's continued progress and development".

Mere charges can't convert personal info to public info: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The provisions of the RTI Act cannot be employed as a mechanism for obtaining personal information otherwise protected under law, merely for the purpose of advancing a private claim, the high court said in a recent judgement.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said mere allegations, however serious, cannot by themselves convert personal information into public information. The petitioner S Savithramma, a resident of Bengaluru, challenged the Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) order on her application seeking asset and liability statement of one S P Jayapal, deputy controller at KSRTC central office in Shantinagar here.

The KIC had upheld the order passed by the public information officer, KSRTC, with a finding that the infor sought had no relationship to any public activity or interest and would cause unwarranted invasion of privacy as per Sec 8 (1)(j) of RTI Act.

The petitioner said Jayapal procured a sale deed in respect of her property by fraudulent means.

This transaction has been reflected in the Income Tax returns filed by Jayapal, and hence, information sought under RTI cannot be treated as personal, she said.

It was argued that since Jayapal is a public servant, details on his assets cannot be regarded as purely personal information, particularly when such information is sought in connection with allegations of fraud and illegal acquisition of property.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said that there was a distinction between information furnished to a competent authority for administrative, vigilance, regulatory, or service-related purposes and information liable to be disclosed to public at large.

"While petitioner may have remedies available under civil law, criminal law, or any other applicable statutory framework for establishing the alleged fraud and seeking appropriate reliefs, provisions of RTI Act cannot be employed as a mechanism for obtaining personal information," the judge said.

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd.

Notice Inviting Tender

IRCTC Invites Open E tender for Golden Chariot Luxury Tourist Train as under:

Tender no. 2026/IRCTC/ Vinyl wrapping /GC/01 for EXTERIOR VINYL WRAPPING WORK INCLUSIVE OF REMOVING AND DISPOSAL OF EXISTING VINYL, PREPARATION OF SURFACE AND PASTING OF NEW VINYL GRAPHICS ON LUXURY TOURIST TRAIN COACHES

Last Date of submission of the tender is **30.06.2026 at 15:00Hrs.**

For more details refer to IRCTC website www.irctc.com and www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC

Group General Manager/Tourism, IRCTC Ltd., 3rd Floor, Tower-D, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi -110029, Email: mohsin6675@irctc.com

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ

ಮುಖ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ

ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಗಂಗಾವತಿ–583227 ಜಿ॥ ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ

ದೂರವಾಣಿ :08533–230102 / 230103

e-mail: sdh.gangavathi@gmail.com

SINO:GHGVT/MCH/TENDER/48/2026-27 Date:11/06/2026

Short Term e-Procurment Tender

Subject:- E-Procurment tender to Supply food items for diet for financial year 2026-27

Refference: File approval by respected Deputy Commisioner koppal On **date:-09.06.2026**

Sub Division Hospital Gangavathi Dist Koppal here by calling Short term e-Procurment tender For Supply of food items for diet Estimated Amount **Rs:- 53,74,366.00** for financial year 2026-27. Information is as follows.

Commencement of e-Tender from website-	12.06.2026
Last Date for Queries on or before	16.06.2026 @ 4.00 pm
Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before	22.06.2026 @ 4.30 pm
Sample Submission Date	23.06.2026 office timing before 4.30 pm
Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid	24.06.2026@ 05.00 pm
https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in	DHFWS/2026-27/IND 2422/Call-2

For more Information contact the following officers in office working hours.

Sd/-Chief Medical Officer
Sub Division Hospital
Gangavathi Dist Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/155/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

1) CB_TATA_INTRA_V50 YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA42B6160
2) ASHOK LEYLAND LIMITED - AL_DOST_GOODS YOM – - Reg No – KA17AA9274
3) MAHINDRA_AND_MAHINDRA - M&M PICKUPGOODS YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA17AA9520
4) ASHOK LEYLAND LIMITED - AL 3118 YOM – 2016 Reg No – KA05AK6336
5) CB_EICHER_PRO_3019_FULLY _BULT_VEHICLE YOM – - Reg No – KA17AA9976
6) CB_LPT_4223_COWL_CHASSIS _GOODS YOM – - Reg No – KA40B5615
7) TATA MOTORS LTD. - TATA LPK 3118 FBV YOM – 2018 Reg No – KA35C2213
8) CB_AL_BADA_DOST YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA27C6403
9) CB_AL_BADA_DOST YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA35D8791

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION i.e. from 12.06.2026 (Please note that closing Auction date would not be a Weekly off / Holiday)

BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.,
22, MG ROAD, BANGALORE
KARNATAKA – 560001
OR
Contact: Arunlaxman Kokare
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Contact / 080 - 61564249

BELAGAVI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous Medical Institution)
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Road, Belagavi - 590001. E-Mail: belgaum.bims@gmail.com

No: BIMS/EST(1)/79/2026-27 Date: 11-06-2026

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited in the prescribed form from the eligible candidates for filling up of the following Posts for Super Speciality Hospital BIMS Belagavi. The last date of application is **29-06-2026 before 5.00 PM** and Interview date will be notified later on.

Sl. No.	Designation	Department	Vacant Post	Classification	Pay Scale	Age Limit
1	Professor (03)	1. Neurosurgery	1	SC (O) - 01 ST (O) - 01 GM (O) - 01	144200-218200	GM - 42 Years + 5 years age relaxation OBC - 45 Years + 5 years age relaxation SC & ST - 47 Years + 5 years age relaxation
		2. Urology	1			
		3. Surgical Gastroenterology	1			
2	Associate Professor (07)	1. Neurology	1	SC (O) - 01 ST (O) - 01 GM (O) - 01 GM (W) - 01 GM (R) - 01 Cat-1 (O) - 01 2A (O) - 01	131400-217100	GM - 39 Years + 5 years age relaxation OBC - 42 Years + 5 years age relaxation SC & ST - 44 Years + 5 years age relaxation
		2. Cardiology	1			
		3. Urology	1			
		4. Nephrology	1			
		5. Surgical Gastroenterology	1			
		6. Medical Gastroenterology	1			
		7. Plastic Surgery	1			
3	Assistant Professor (11)	1. Neurology	1	SC (O) - 01 SC (W) - 01 GM (O) - 01 GM (W) - 02 GM (R) - 01 GM (PH) - 01 ST (O) - 01 Cat-1 (O) - 01 2A (O) - 01 2B (O) - 01	79800-211500	GM - 35 Years + 5 years age relaxation OBC - 38 Years + 5 years age relaxation SC & ST - 40 Years + 5 years age relaxation
		2. Neurosurgery	1			
		3. Cardiology	1			
		4. Urology	1			
		5. Nephrology	1			
		6. Surgical Gastroenterology	1			
		7. Medical Gastroenterology	1			
		8. Plastic Surgery	1			
		9. Anaesthesiology	2			
		10. Endocrinology	1			

Note: 1) The application minimum Qualification, Experience & Instructions may be downloaded from the institute Website: **www.bimsbelgaum.karnataka.gov.in**
2) Above 5 years age relaxation is as per Government Order No. ಸಿಆಸುಇ 262 ಸೇನೆನಿ 2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–01–2026

Sd/- Director
Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/416/Adverto/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017. (Phone: 080 25084184, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No	Description	Details				
1	Name of work	Providing RCC Ramp for Fire Station, Dewatering wells along the AITF-1 Complex and other ancillary civil works at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru	Modification of UPS and Battery Rooms at CATVAC and AITF-1 Buildings at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037 (Civil, Electrical and Air Conditioning Works)	Providing Interlock Paver Block Pathway from Gate No.4 To Gate No.7 at URSC Campus, Vimanapura Bengaluru-560017	Renovation of Conference halls at Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura, Bengaluru.	Providing Platform for Cooling Towers Near Main AC Plant and Gypsum Board Partition in various locations at ISITE Campus, URSC Marathahalli, Bengaluru.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/18/2026-27 Dt. 09-06-2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/19/2026-27 Dt. 09-06-2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/20/2026-27 Dt. 09-06-2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/21/2026-27 Dt. 09-06-2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/22/2026-27 Dt. 09-06-2026
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 17.98 Lakhs	₹ 24.20 Lakhs	₹ 18.67 Lakhs	₹ 19.87 Lakhs	₹ 12.21 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	Five Months	Four Months	Four Months	Six Months	Six Months
5	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 35,960/- valid for 180 days	Rs. 48,400/- valid for 180 days	Rs. 37,340/- valid for 180 days	Rs. 39,740/- valid for 180 days	Rs. 24,420/- valid for 180 days

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

FORM A-PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the IBBI (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF MOGUIRE VIRAGO PRIVATE LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS		
1.	Name of Corporate Debtor (CD)	**Moguire Virago Private Limited**
2.	Date of incorporation of CD	18th Jan 2016
3.	Authority under which CD is incorporated / registered	ROC- Karnataka Incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013
4.	Corporate Identity No.	U52599KA2016PTC085326
5.	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	No. 314, Abhee Lake View, Serenity Layout, Sarjapur Road, Kaikondrahalli, Bengaluru Karnataka – 560035
6.	Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	09th June 2026
7.	Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	06th December 2026
8.	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as Interim Resolution Professional (IRP)	Sri. Raghu Raja H (IBBI/IPA-003/IPA-ICAI-N-00453/ 2024-2025/14438)
9.	Address and e-mail of the Interim Resolution Professional, as registered with the Board	No. 199, 4th Main, Banashankari 5th Stage, Bengaluru - 560061 Email id: hraghuraja@gmail.com
10.	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the Interim Resolution Professional	No. 199, 4th Main, Banashankari 5th Stage, Bengaluru - 560061 Email id: moguirevirago.irp@gmail.com
11.	Last date for submission of claims	26th June 2026.
12.	Classes of creditors, if any, under section 21 (6A) (b) ascertained by the IRP	Not Applicable
13.	Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class	Not Applicable
14.	(a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorised representatives are available at:	(a) Web link- www.ibbi.gov.in (b) Not Applicable

Notice is hereby given that the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru has ordered the commencement of a Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process of M/s. Moguire Virago Private Limited under CIRP on 09th June 2026 (Order copy uploaded on 10th June 2026).

The creditors of M/s. Moguire Virago Private Limited under CIRP are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 26th June 2026 to the Interim Resolution Professional at the address mentioned against entry No.10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date: 11th June 2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-(Raghu Raja H)
Interim Resolution Professional of
M/s. Moguire Virago Private Limited

Modi rule free of scams: Vijayendra

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP state president B Y Vijayendra claimed on Thursday that there hadn't been a single scam under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a press conference, he said: "During UPA rule, there was no development and there were scams like 2G, Bofors, Commonwealth and so on exceeding Rs 12 lakh crore. However, there hasn't been a single scam during Modi's rule. This is a record."

Stating that India had become the fourth largest economy in the world, the BJP state president claimed that the 140 crore citizens of the state were confident about Modi's leadership.

"Modi has emphasised more on the defence sector. Earlier, there were imports in the defence sector. However, now the budget share of the defence sector has increased by 165%. Defence instruments are being produced indigenously. Atma Nirmbhar (self-reliance) is being achieved."

Vijayendra claimed that over Rs 12 lakh crore had been provided for basic amenities.

"When the entire world suffered from Covid, India, under Modi's guidance, gave a big solution. At a time when a country like the US itself was helpless, India prepared the vaccine. India gave licence to some countries free of cost," he said.

Coconut fall proves fatal to baby in mother's arms

UDUPI, DHNS: In a tragic incident, a one-and-a-half-year-old baby boy died after a coconut allegedly fell on his head while being carried in his mother's arms at Heranje near Brahmavar.

The child's mother, Suchitra, had left home in order to help her six-year-old daughter board the school bus at the bus stop, located about 300 metres away from the house on Tuesday. She was carrying her baby, Daksha, in her arms.

After covering a few metres from the house, a coconut suddenly fell from the tree at a height of 40 feet and struck the baby on the skull. The impact caused a deep head injury, forcing the mother to cry for help. The baby was immediately shifted to a hospital in Manipal.

Doctors at the hospital performed an emergency surgery soon after the child was admitted. But due to the severity of the head injury, treatment proved unsuccessful and the child died later in the evening.

Neighbours said that Suchitra never takes her baby while accompanying her daughter to the bus stop. As the rain had stopped, she decided to take Daksha with her to the bus stand. The baby's father, Prashanth, runs a fast-food shop in Brahmavar. Suchitra is a homemaker.

MLC poll: JD(S) wants Congress nominee's papers rejected

BENGALURU, DHNS: JD(S) has filed a complaint against the Congress candidate in the Legislative Council polls Malavalli (B S) Shivanna before the returning officer alleging that he has not revealed the criminal cases against him in the affidavit.

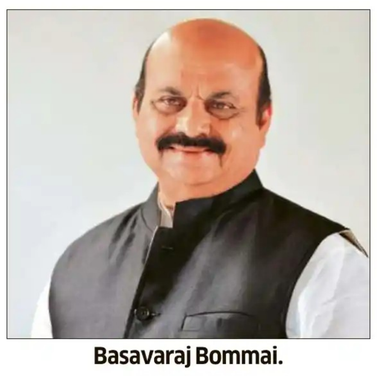
In the complaint, JD(S) candidate Govindaraju raised objections to the acceptance of Shivanna's nomination papers and requested that they be rejected.

"The affidavit in form 26 filed by the Congress candidate, along with his nomination papers, it has come to my notice and is now submitted before the returning officer that the candidate has deliberately, willfully and fraudulently omitted to disclose several pending criminal cases against him in courts of competent jurisdiction," reads the complaint.

INTERVIEW

Both Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar are hypocrites, says Bommai

Politics is called the art of the possible. Siddaramaiah's resignation and D K Shivakumar's elevation as the chief minister (CM) have opened many possibilities, wherein the BJP may also witness organisational reshuffling. In an exclusive interview with *DH*, former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai speaks to **Sujay B M** about recent political developments, welfare schemes, opportunities for BJP and others. Excerpts:



Basavaraj Bommai.

How do you see Shivakumar's elevation as CM?

It's Congress' internal matter which we aren't worried about much. But we are worried whether this will benefit the people... Shivakumar is currently engulfed in managing his ministry... He needs to have his supporters in the next (Cabinet) expansion... He's making tall claims but I don't think they are together as a party in the endeavour to give better governance.

There are differences between 'secular-rationalist' Siddaramaiah, and D K Shivakumar's 'soft Hindutva.' Does it help the BJP or is DKS taking a certain constituency away from it?

There's no question of taking away any constituency. Both are hypocrites. Siddaramaiah took a stand as a rationalist but ultimately went to temples, did aarti etc. Similarly, Shivakumar went to Kumbh Mela but at a critical time, he called terrorists his brothers. For his own elevation, he may have gone to temples but how well he shows he is fair to everybody will decide.

Discussion on guarantees gained steam after Congress came to power. How do you look at balancing welfare schemes and development?

There has to be some philosophy behind it... If you have to provide guarantees, you need a sturdy financial set up... In Karnataka, there's nearly 100% committed expenditure. Why are MLAs unhappy?? Guarantees cannot be at the cost of development. You cannot spread the butter evenly everywhere. The poorest of the poor should benefit... Providing guarantees to everyone is political, since everyone has a vote.

Does DKS' elevation as CM halt BJP's efforts to expand in Old Mysuru?

BJP is a party with a difference. BJS, BJP's predecessor, was an urban party. Then, we spread into villages. Later, it was only seen in a few states, like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, but it's now a pan-India party. Similarly, we want to be a pan-Karnataka party. We haven't been successful but it doesn't deter us from expanding. Whether DKS is the CM or someone else, it doesn't bother us.

In the post-Siddaramaiah era, how can BJP make inroads amongst OBCs, Dalits?

There's discontentment amongst BCs, SC, STs... Not even a single Ganga Kalyan borewell was provided to BCs in three years. SCs expected the CM post, their funds are not being properly utilised, and there is corruption in the SC/ST corporations. We were building on this for the last three years... Siddaramaiah's absence may accelerate our efforts but even with Siddaramaiah, it was difficult this time to hold the Ahinda fort.

Congress has historically been seen as an Ahinda party...

That was propaganda, and they were successful for sometime. Now, that propaganda has been exposed. These three years were disastrous for Ahinda.

Can BJP and JD(S) shed their upper-caste party tag?

No party can win an election with just one community. They need a cross section of people from SC/STs, farmers, women etc. The political situation will decide the strategy...

Though the BJP came to power twice, you have never breached the simple majority mark of 113 seats...

We are aware of that. The reason is what you earlier said: our performance in Southern Karnataka. Therefore, we will have different micro-level plans and approaches, which will ensure we will cross 113 this time.

Ashoka slams CM; calls him 'mafia commission agent'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Thursday slammed Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, calling him a "mafia commission agent".

"Yes, I am indeed speaking as an agent! But not as some 'mafia' commission agent lurking for vested interests like you. I am a people's agent standing up for the rights of Karnataka's seven-and-a-half crore Kannadigas, as the voice of Bengaluru's one-and-a-half crore citizens. As leader of the Opposition, questioning your loot and plunder is my constitutional duty — no one's permission is needed for that," Ashoka said in a post on X.

The LoP was responding to Shivakumar's allegation that Ashoka was speaking like an agent of the 'garbage mafia'.

"I understand the frustration, fear and anxiety of someone who begged and pleaded at the high command's doorstep, got dragged around and finally clinched the CM seat, only for the opposition not to even grant you a minimal 'honeymoon period...' Your statement that "they can't tolerate our transparency and performance" is the biggest joke of the century!".

Noting that the high-level committee's one-week deadline to look into the issue had expired on Thursday, Ashoka said: "You've got the guts, if there's even a shred of transparency left in you, make that report public right now without hiding it! Lay the report before the people of this state. Let your "true mask" slip off, and let the people decide what kind of performance is whose!"

'He worked against me': Siddu fumes at Zameer's fan

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a viral video, former chief minister Siddaramaiah was caught on camera saying Chamarajpet MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan "worked against the party and me."

Siddaramaiah said this to a man who was seeking a ministerial berth for Khan. The man urged the former chief minister to ensure Khan's induction into the Chief Minister D K Shivakumar-led Cabinet.

"Did I ask him to work against the party?" Siddaramaiah is heard telling the man.

When the man told Siddaramaiah that Khan was his "close loyalist", the two-time chief minister retorted, "Does that mean he can work against me?"

Subsequently, an angry Siddaramaiah ordered the man to go out of his official residence, 'Kaveri'. This exchange is said to have taken place a few days ago.

Khan's supporters have been staging protests seeking a ministerial berth for him.

He did not make it to the first list of 13 lawmakers who were inducted into the new Cabinet earlier this month. After the April 9 Davangere South Assembly byelection, Congress initiated disciplinary action against senior lawmakers Naseer Ahmed and Abdul Jabbar for alleged 'anti-party' activities.

RAINY RIDE

Motorcyclists make their way as it rains heavily in Mysuru on Thursday.
DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

9% int more apt in accident cases involving death, serious injury: HC

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has said that the rate of interest at 9% is more appropriate in accident cases involving death and serious injury, especially where there is a long delay in claimants receiving compensation.

"There cannot be any 'straitjacket formula' in determining the rate of interest and the same must depend on the facts and circumstances of each case. The guiding principle remains that the rate must neither be punitive nor non-existent, but must strike a balance between fairness to claimant and reasonableness to insurer," Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju said, while directing the insurance company to deposit the enhanced compensation with interest at 9% per annum.

The appeal pertains to the accident that occurred in 2016 in Bengaluru. The deceased Ravanamma's husband and two children are the claimants.

On November 14, 2016, Ravanamma, who was riding a bicycle, and others were crossing the Outer Ring Road in Kasturi Nagar when a tempo traveller hit them from the opposite direction. Ravanamma was taken to the government hospital in KR Puram, where she was declared brought dead.

On February 16, 2018, the tribunal awarded Rs 16.57 lakh compensation along with 9% interest. The insurance company, the insurer of the Tempo Traveller, challenged this, contending that the interest rate of 9% was high and should be reduced to 8%.

The court examined the materials on record and Apex Court judgements and noted that over the last 5-10 years, the award of interest has consistently been at 9% per annum.

"The SC had been reinforcing the obligation of timely payment by directing that in case of delay beyond two months, an additional 9% interest per annum would be payable on both the principal amount and accrued interest," Justice Ganju said.

It said the award of interest is usually determined at the prevailing bank rate of interest on a case-to-case basis and at the rate which is just and fair and reasonable.

"The Supreme Court has consistently held that the award of interest is intended to recompensate the claimant for being deprived of the use of money, which ought to have been paid at the time of occurrence of the accident. The rate of interest, therefore, must be just, fair and reasonable, having regard to the prevailing economic conditions and bank rates," the court said.

The court has awarded enhanced compensation of Rs 1.95 lakh along with 9% interest from the date of petition till the date of realisation, in addition to Rs 16.57 lakh awarded by the tribunal.

Tree fall on auto not 'motor accident' under MV Act, rules SC; enhances compensation to Rs 25 lakh to injured

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday held that a tree or its branch falling on a stationary autorickshaw does not qualify as a motor accident under Motor Vehicles Act (MVA), as the vehicle does not play an active role in the incident.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh clarified that such an event is not proximately caused by the motor vehicle itself, making a claim specifically under Section 166 of the MVA inappropriate.

However, adopting a humane approach in line with constitutional principles, the court exercised its extraordinary powers under Article 142 to award Rs 25 lakh as compensation to K K Umesh Kumar, who suffered grievous injuries in a freak accident in Bengaluru in 2007.

Kumar was travelling in an autorickshaw from Queens Road to Chinnaswamy stadium on June 23, 2007, when heavy rain forced the vehicle to stop under a tree by the roadside.

A branch from the old tree suddenly detached and fell on the auto, injuring him severely.

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Bengaluru, had earlier dismissed his claim petition seeking Rs 50 lakh, terming the incident a natural calamity.

The Karnataka High Court, on appeal, had awarded Rs 17.1

lakh, holding the then BBMP liable for 25%, the autorickshaw's insurer for 50% and state horticulture department for 25%.

Challenging the High Court order, senior advocate Anand Sanjay M Nuli for BBMP and horticulture department argued they could not be held responsible for the unfortunate incident.

The court agreed that neither taking shelter under the tree during heavy rain nor falling of the branch could have been reasonably anticipated by the authorities or the driver.

"In these circumstances, it would be unfair to fasten the liability upon the appellant under MVA," the bench said.

The court noted that while municipal corporations have a duty to maintain roadside trees — many of which are decades or even a century old — it would be unrealistic to expect constant vigil over every tree, especially in expanding cities witnessing heavy migration.

"The prudent call cannot be that all branches are slashed with a saw," it remarked.

The bench, however, expressed concern over leaving a person with life-altering injuries without adequate support.

"A person who has suffered such life-altering grievous injuries, being left in the lurch, without any money to sustain himself, does not appeal to the conscience of justice," it said.

Observing that the compensation determined by the High Court was insufficient, the apex court enhanced it to Rs 25 lakh, with interest as ordered by the HC, to be calculated from the date of filing of claim petition.

The apportionment of liability among the parties was left unchanged. The court directed that the amount be disbursed within 4 weeks.

A file photo of renovation work in progress at Kumara Krupa guesthouse in Bengaluru.

DKS faces JD(S) flak for renovating Kumara Krupa guesthouse

Flayed for altering building where Dewan Seshadri Iyer, Gandhi stayed

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kumara Krupa guesthouse is being renovated at the behest of Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who has selected the heritage building as his official residence, inviting criticism from the Opposition JD(S).

The main stone structure of the Kumara Krupa guesthouse came up in 1856. Additional rooms were added in 1960. There are a total of 12 rooms in the guesthouse.

On May 30 and 31, just days before taking oath as chief minister, Shivakumar inspected the guesthouse and ordered "immediate renovation works". The guesthouse comes under the department of personnel & administrative reforms (DPAR), which reports to Shivakumar.

The public works department (PWD) is carrying out the renovation work, which includes flooring.

The guesthouse has east- and north-facing entrances, apparently in line with Shivakumar's *vaastu* preference. After taking charge as CM, Shivakumar announced that he will sit facing north during all meetings at Vidhana Soudha conference hall.

To facilitate renovation works, one room allotted to the deputy speaker, three given to the Covid-19 inquiry commission and other guesthouse offices will be shifted out.

"It is condemnable and disgraceful that Shivakumar is altering the 160-year-old heritage building Kumara Krupa, an integral part of Bengaluru's identity, for personal reasons," the JD(S) said in a tweet, demanding that all renovation work be stopped immediately.

The regional party described the renovation as "arrogance" and "height of foolishness," despite other buildings like 'Cauvery' and 'Anugraha' being available for Shivakumar to opt for, as his official residence.

"Converting the heritage building Kumara Krupa, associated with the memory of K Seshadri Iyer (who was the Dewan of the erstwhile princely state of Mysore) and where Mahatma Gandhi once stayed, into a home office merely to satisfy personal preferences is a grave betrayal of history," the JD(S) said, adding that Kumara Krupa "is not anyone's private property".

The JD(S) asked Shivakumar "not to lay your hands on heritage buildings" and lamented that "those who are supposed to protect heritage structures are instead contributing to their destruction".

Use digital databases to improve service delivery: Priyank

BENGALURU, DHNS

Priyank Kharge.

E-governance Minister Priyank Kharge called for better use of citizen data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for 'leak-proof and targeted service delivery'.

The minister reviewed the E-governance department, a portfolio usually kept by the chief minister.

According to a release, Kharge said the government already possesses a vast amount of digital data on citizens across different departments.

"Instead of maintaining such information in isolated silos, a system should be developed to enable coordination and data-sharing among departments," he said.

"Effective use of digital databases across departments will help accurately identify eligible beneficiaries while delivering welfare scheme benefits. This will also reduce the need for citizens to repeatedly submit the same information to different government agencies," he added.

Kharge directed the Centre for e-Governance (CeG), Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre and Centre for Smart Governance to work in close coordination to strengthen Karnataka's digital governance ecosystem and develop innovative technological solutions that improve quality and speed of public services.

"Improving citizens' quality of life, ensuring administrative transparency and enhancing effective implementation of government services remain key priorities of the government," he said.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast June 12: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	30.2	22.2	00
Bidar	37.8	25	00
Vijayapura	34.5	22.5	00
Dharwad	30.4	22	00
Haveri	28.2	23	00
Kalaburagi	37.7	24.6	00
Raichur	36.2	24.6	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	31.5	23	10.7
Karwar	29.4	24.6	11.3
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	29.6	22.9	20.3

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	30.2	21.5	TR
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29	21.5	00
Davangere	29	20.3	2.2
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	31.4	21.2	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	30.8	18.8	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	42.4	30	00
Kolkata	35.8	23.7	34
Mumbai	35.3	30	00
Chennai	39.2	31.6	00
Pune	36	25.4	00
Hyderabad	38.1	27.3	00
Th'puram	30.6	25.5	08

Monsoon slows; below-average rain likely over next 2 weeks

Showers have so far covered Kerala, TN, Andhra and Karnataka

MUMBAI, REUTERS

Rain Deficit

- Western disturbances have slowed the progress of the annual monsoon
- Lower rainfall in central and northern states could delay planting of summer-sown crops
- The central and northern regions are likely to receive significantly below-normal rainfall in the fortnight

India is expected to receive below-average rainfall over the next two weeks, especially in central and northern regions, as "western disturbances" have slowed the progress of the annual monsoon, two senior weather bureau officials said on Thursday.

Western disturbances are weather systems from the Mediterranean Sea that bring rain and snow to north and can occasionally disrupt monsoon progress.

The monsoon delivers about 70% of the country's annual rains and replenishes crucial water sources in an economy where nearly half of the farmland lacks irrigation, and about half the population earns its livelihood from agriculture.

Lower rainfall in central and northern states could delay planting of summer-sown crops like rice, cotton, soybeans and pulses.

"Western disturbances have slowed the monsoon's advance, and it could take a few more days before it moves into central India," said a senior official with the India Meteorological Department.

The June-to-September monsoon usually begins to lash the southern state of Kerala around June 1 before covering the entire country by mid-July, but this year, its onset over Kerala was delayed by three days.

The monsoon has so far covered Kerala, Tamil Nadu and most of Andhra Pradesh, as well as Karnataka and parts of southern Maharashtra, which are expected to receive good rainfall over the next fortnight, the official said.

However, central and northern regions are likely to receive significantly below-normal rainfall in the fortnight, the official said.

Centre may cut fertiliser subsidy as global urea prices fall

Assures comfortable stock to meet the demand in kharif season

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre is set to reassess its fertiliser subsidy outlay for 2026-27 following a sharp decline in global urea prices, even as it assured comfortable stock to meet kharif season demand.

Addressing an inter-ministerial briefing, Aparna S Sharma, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, said India's fertiliser stocks are adequate for the ongoing kharif season.

"The stock position of fertilisers in the country is comfortable," she stated.

Sharma indicated that the preliminary subsidy estimate of Rs 3.4 lakh crore could be revised downward due to softening international prices.

The recent tender floated by state-owned National Fertilisers Ltd for 1.7 million tonnes of urea received bids exceeding 6 million tonnes, with the lowest offer at around $445 per tonne — more than 50% lower than April's quotes.

The government had earlier sought to double the budgeted subsidy from Rs 1.71 lakh crore, but falling prices may help contain the increase. New export players have boosted global supply, while strong domestic production and stocks have also influenced rates, Sharma noted.

For kharif 2026, the Department of Agriculture has assessed total fertiliser requirement at 383.9 lakh tonnes, with current stocks at 197.56 lakh tonnes. Domestic production continues smoothly, supported by gas availability. The country has already added around 153.79 lakh tonnes through domestic output and imports.

Additional imports for kharif may range between 10-20 lakh tonnes, depending on domestic production and monsoon conditions.

Urea has been secured from multiple countries including Oman, Russia, Egypt, and Nigeria, while DAP and NPKs have come from Russia, Morocco, Jordan, and others.

India's urea production has risen significantly from 225 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 306.67 lakh tonnes in 2024-25.

Apex court decries bias against girl child, invokes poem

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Stressing the need for strict enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC-PNDT) Act until social mindsets change, the Supreme Court on Thursday voiced deep concern over the continuing patriarchal preference for male children and the covert practice of sex selection, even 75 years after independence.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Prashant Kumar Mishra invoked Subhadra Kumari Chauhan's poem 'Balika ka Parichay', which celebrates a mother's joy at the birth of a daughter, and quoted the Manusmriti dictum "Yatra naryastu pujyante ramante tatra devata" (where women are honoured, divinity blossoms).

The court made these observations while dismissing an appeal by a doctor, Ramesh, challenging cognisance of offences under Section 23 of the Act, which prohibits sex selection. The SC noted that government schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Janani Suraksha Yojana, and Ladli Lakshmi Yojana reflect ongoing efforts to eradicate systemic bias against the girl child.

Citing census data, the court pointed out that the national child sex ratio (girls per 1,000 boys) declined from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further to 919 in 2011, prompting the stringent implementation of the PC-PNDT Act.

It has since recovered to 929, signalling a partial improvement, but "not yet a path of true equality".

FOOTBALL MANIA

Footballer Bhaichung Bhutia during the unveiling of the mural of Argentine footballer Lionel Messi to celebrate the commencement of FIFA World Cup 2026, in Mumbai's Bandra on Thursday. PTI

Faith, politics converge in Vijay's temple run

ANALYSIS

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

C Joseph Vijay's visit to the Sri Mookambika Temple in Kollur, Karnataka, on Friday — he will be the third Tamil Nadu chief minister to offer prayers there — is not merely a spiritual journey but one bound to be read through a political lens, coming at a time when he is shaping his public identity in office.

Though personal in nature, the visit marks a visible departure from the political culture associated with the DMK's traditional rationalist posture.

This is Vijay's first temple visit since assuming office on May 10. Before the election results, he had offered prayers at the Lord Murugan Temple in Tiruchendur and the Sai Baba shrine in Shirdi. A few days before Tamil Nadu voted to elect its 17th Assembly, he also visited a church and a mosque in Tiruchirapalli.

TVK chief Vijay visits a temple at Tiruchendur in Tamil Nadu on April 28. PTI

AIADMK founder MG Ramachandran and his protégé J Jayalalithaa were open about their religious affiliation and never hesitated to visit temples as chief ministers.

By contrast, DMK leaders, who profess rationalism, have largely kept away from temples in their official capacity. Current party chief MK Stalin has maintained that individuals are free to practise their faith — a stance reflecting the party's recent efforts to soften perceptions that it is hostile to Hindu religious practice.

That Vijay has chosen Kollur for his first temple visit as CM is therefore likely to draw attention beyond personal devotion.

For many observers, Vijay's journey to Kollur naturally evokes memories of the two AIADMK leaders. Whether deliberate or incidental, the parallels are hard to ignore.

At the same time, Vijay's visit comes amid his party's bid to broaden its appeal among sections of the electorate that once formed the core of AIADMK's support base.

"Vijay is a Christian by birth, as his father is a Christian, but he has been secular and regularly visits temples. As an actor, he would go quietly, but as CM, his visits naturally attract media attention," a source told *DH*.

SC judge exits Jacqueline's plea hearing

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Supreme Court judge Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra recused himself from hearing a petition filed by Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez challenging a Delhi court order framing charges against her, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar and 15 others, in a Rs 200-crore money laundering case. Chandrashekhar was arrested by the Delhi Police in 2017 and by ED in 2021.

102 GWp floating solar potential identified

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi has announced that India has assessed more than 102 GWp of floating solar potential, with the government set to launch a dedicated scheme to accelerate deployment of the technology.

Addressing the release of the report on Floating Solar PV Potential Assessment of India here on Wednesday, Joshi said the assessment raises India's total estimated solar potential to 3,445 GWp.

He emphasised that reservoirs and other water bodies are emerging as valuable assets for generating clean energy through floating solar projects. "The Ministry is working on a dedicated scheme to promote the deployment of floating solar across the country," Joshi stated. He added that these initiatives demonstrate government's commitment to harnessing natural resources sustainably while advancing India's clean energy transition.

The minister also launched the Online Portal for Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

Bidadi farmers booked; HM hints at dropping case

Bidadi, From Page 1

"Everyone must work within the framework of the law, whether it is myself, labourers or farmers. We had provided guidelines on boundaries and limitations. If there has been a violation of these rules, a local FIR is filed. I will gather complete information on what exactly transpired at the local level," the minister told reporters in Bengaluru.

Defending the government's stance, Kharge said the administration is pro-farmer and not taking away any land against the wishes of landowners.

"Land is being taken only from those who are giving it voluntarily. If anyone has grievances, they have already approached the courts to seek legal remedies. However, the BJP and the JD(S) are trying to turn this into a major political issue," he alleged.

Kharge added that local leaders and the respective MLAs had full information on the matter and that a suitable action would be taken after a review.

Yashavantha T, leader of the Prantha Raitha Sangha, termed the FIR "completely fabricated" and "politically motivated".

"The police have slapped false cases of unlawful assembly and breach of peace just to shoo the farmers away from the protest sites. The government cannot scare the farming community into submission with these intimidating tactics," Yashavantha said.

"Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who has vocalised his support for calls to protect the Andaman islands, should first look at home and stop destroying fertile agricultural fields right here," he added.

Despite the police case, farmer leaders have warned that they will escalate the agitation.

SC allows compounding of case lodged by woman against husband

'Dispute personal in nature, parties settled it'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The case pertained to Mahadevaiah from Mandya who was convicted for assaulting his wife with a stick, causing injuries, including a fracture to her hand

The Supreme Court has ruled that compounding of offences can be permitted even after conviction by allowing settlements between parties to secure ends of justice.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Prasanna B Varale acquitted a man from Mandya district in a case lodged by his wife, after the couple settled their dispute and began living together peacefully.

The apex court observed that it has consistently held that in the exercise of its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, it can put an end to criminal proceedings in cases of a personal nature where the parties have genuinely settled their disputes.

The case pertained to Mahadevaiah, who was convicted by the additional sessions judge, Mandya, on July 24, 2013, for offences punishable under Sections 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons) and 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons) of the Indian Penal Code.

He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with fines.

According to the prosecution, on July 6, 2011, Mahadevaiah assaulted his wife Sannathayamma with a stick, causing injuries, including a fracture to her hand.

The trial court convicted him based on the evidence of the injured witness, her daughter, and medical records, while acquitting other accused persons.

The Karnataka High Court upheld the conviction and sentence on April 28, 2025.

During the pendency of the appeal before the Supreme Court, both Mahadevaiah and his wife Sannathayamma filed a joint application seeking permission to compound the offences.

They submitted that with the intervention of elders and family members, they had amicably resolved their disputes and were now residing together.

The complainant wife clearly stated that she did not wish to pursue the case further and had no objection to setting aside the conviction.

Both parties, present before the court, affirmed that the compromise was genuine, voluntary, and without any coercion.

Referring to a series of earlier judgments, the bench noted that the Supreme Court has permitted compounding and accepted post-conviction settlements in appropriate cases.

It cited cases such as Manoj & Anr v State of Madhya Pradesh (2008), Md Abdul Sufan Laskar v State of Assam (2008), Mathura Singh v State of U.P. (2009), Padmalayan v Sarasan (2014), and others, where similar compromises were accepted, particularly for offences under Section 324 IPC.

The court emphasised that though the offence under Section 326 IPC is non-compoundable under the CrPC, the exceptional circumstances of the case — involving a matrimonial dispute between husband and wife, their voluntary settlement, and the interest of securing complete justice — warranted the exercise of its inherent powers under Article 142.

Despite strong opposition from the state counsel, the bench allowed the compounding application. It modified the judgments of the trial court and the High Court, substituting the sentence with the period already undergone by the appellant, and ordered his immediate release from Mandya jail by acquitting him of all charges.

3 Indians confirmed dead in US hit on ship

Iran, From Page 1

US CENTCOM hit and disabled three commercial ships near the Strait of Hormuz this week. MT Marivex and MT Settebello, both sailing under the flag of Palau, came under US attack on Monday and Wednesday, respectively.

New Delhi raised the issue during an open debate on the situation in West Asia at the United Nations Security Council. P Harish, New Delhi's envoy to the UN, said India was firmly opposed to attacks on merchant shipping, as many of its nationals were prominent in its global workforce.

"Many Indian nationals have lost their lives or are missing as a result of attacks against countries of the region and against merchant vessels," Harish told the UNSC.

US CENTCOM on Thursday justified its strikes, stating that MT Marivex had violated the blockade by attempting to sail to a port of Iran, and MT Settebello had attempted to transport oil from Iran.

After the attack on MT Settebello on Thursday, Jason Meeks, the chargé d'affaires of the US embassy in New Delhi, was summoned to the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs, where senior officials handed over to him the démarche.

"These attacks came from the US Navy that is stationed there," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told journalists in New Delhi on Thursday, adding: "We attach high importance to the welfare and well-being of our seafaring community."

"The blockade is being enforced impartially against vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas, including all Iranian ports on the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman," US CENTCOM stated in a press release on Thursday.

Over 18,000 Indian seafarers remain in the Gulf, including 562 aboard 13 ships sailing under the flag of India, 329 on vessels in the west of the Strait of Hormuz and 233 on vessels in the Gulf of Oman, Mukesh Mangal, additional secretary at the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said on Thursday.

Koppal murders: A biology fan, boy irked by kin's 'compulsion' to study CS

KOPPAL, DHNS: Police investigation has revealed that the student who stabbed his elder sister and father to death was upset since he was "compelled" to study computer science, instead of his choice biology.

It was earlier reported that he committed the crime after he was advised to reduce addiction to online gaming.

Police sources, quoting the statement recorded by the minor, said that he had secured over 90% in SSLC exam and was keen on biology as one of the subjects in PUcourse.

However, his parents reportedly put pressure on him to study CS.

The sources said that the boy had got only 40% marks in CS in I PU, and was worried that he will be pressured to study it if his family members come to know of his marks.

In his statement before police, the minor is said to have told that his parents were repeatedly advising him to focus on studies, even though he disliked CS. The mother of the boy is under treatment at a hospital in Ballari while his father and sister died after he stabbed them on June 6.

5.95L ineligible Gruha Lakshmi...

Gruha Lakshmi, From Page 1

The government has recovered Rs 64 crore from banks. A circular has been issued to Panchayat Development Officers to report deaths immediately. Anganwadi workers will inform the department to block beneficiary numbers without delay.

To clean up the rolls, a one-time biometric authentication drive covering 1.23 crore beneficiaries ill be launched across across 17,000 kiosks -- Karnataka One, Bengaluru One, Grama One and Bapuji Seva Kendras -- to capture thumb and iris data and issue authentication certificates at a nominal fee.

"If a beneficiary has died, families can update the new woman head in the ration card and apply afresh. There is no automatic transfer to next of kin," clarified an official.

Apprehensive over the special intensive revision of voter lists excluding their core voters and guarantee beneficiaries, the Congress has asked people to proactively enrol their names during SIR enumeration or risk forfeiting the guarantees.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said: "We will not exclude any one. Verification is to ensure the benefit reaches genuine beneficiaries from our state."

Opposition leader R Ashoka said the Congress had promised guarantees with "no conditions apply" but was now finding excuses to deny the benefits.

Guarantee panel vice-chairman and MLC Dinesh Gooligowda alleged the Opposition was spreading misinformation.

"We only want to audit the scheme to prevent misuse. I have proposed making life certificate mandatory for beneficiaries."

Homemakers' unpaid work...

Women, From Page 1

The court noted that women's unpaid caregiving work is estimated to contribute 15-17% of India's GDP, while globally, around 16 billion hours are devoted daily to unpaid domestic work and care.

Referring to traditional Indian respect for 'woman of the house' as 'Grihaswamini', it questioned why society still fails to recognise her true worth.

The court clarified that the Rs 30,000 per month should be treated as a 'stand-in' basic minimum income in cases where the homemaker has no proven monetary earnings.

In cases where the homemaker is also part of workforce, this component of loss of domestic care will be awarded in addition to her proven income.

On average, such cases remain pending for eight years in High Courts and six years at the tribunal level, it said.

Describing the Motor Vehicles Act as a beneficial legislation meant to provide just and fair compensation, the court asked Chief Justices of High Courts to prioritise listing of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal appeals that have been pending for more than four years, starting with the oldest cases.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Modi at 12: Growth amid anxieties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing an uninterrupted term of 12 years is being celebrated as a major milestone. This is also a time to assess his record of governance, amply reflected in the changes ushered in by the three National Democratic Alliance (NDA) governments he led. The Prime Minister deserves credit for some of these transformative changes. India's economy has grown from being the 10th largest in the world to become the sixth largest; per capita income has doubled; high growth rates were consistently maintained, except during the Covid years. The country has seen large expansions in infrastructure – both physical and digital – and efficient operationalisation of public welfare systems that now touch the lives of about 80 crore people. Inflation has been moderate, and there is hope that the growth will be sustained. In all these metrics, the Modi government did well to build on the foundations laid by earlier administrations.

A nation is not just its infrastructure or its economy. Its most important component is its people, their lives, their social and political groupings, and their involvement in the systems that govern them. These 12 years have seen a marked slide on these counts. The country is a lot more polarised than it was in 2014. The Prime Minister's slogan "*sab ka saath, sab ka vikas*" has lost much of its spirit and intent, and minorities have many reasons to feel marginalised. The democratic decline is evident, with opposition parties and leaders becoming targets of hostile investigations and actions by government agencies. Many institutions, including constitutional bodies such as the Election Commission of India (ECI), are increasingly losing their autonomy. Serious challenges weigh down the federal system of governance. Democratic freedoms and individual rights are under strain. Violence and lawlessness have greater currency, especially when directed against weaker sections. Inequality has grown, and even in an economy with momentum, unemployment remains high.

Economic resilience contrasts with shrinking democratic freedoms and institutional autonomy

Attempts are being made to compare Modi's tenure with that of the country's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. This is an irrelevant and unwieldy exercise because they belong to different periods, separated by over six decades. Their challenges were different; so were their responses. There is commonality in that both provided strong leadership and stable administration for an extended period. Nehru is part of history, and Modi is still shaping contemporary India. The latter is too close to the events of the day to be judged by history, which takes a long view of people and their deeds.

A river lost in urban waste

The alarming degradation of the Dakshina Pinakini river is a stark reminder of the environmental cost of unchecked urbanisation and poor waste management. Once a seasonal river sustaining communities and agriculture across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the river is steadily being transformed into a conduit for Bengaluru's garbage and sewage. The latest drone footage revealing that more than 3,000 tonnes of waste have been illegally dumped into its riverbed near Kadugodi should serve as a wake-up call. Originating in the Nandi Hills, the river flows through Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Bengaluru Rural, and Bengaluru Urban districts before entering Tamil Nadu near Hosur, and eventually draining into the Bay of Bengal near Cuddalore. Along its roughly 400-km course, it supports irrigation, groundwater recharge, and the livelihoods of thousands of farming families. Its ecological and economic significance, therefore, extends far beyond state boundaries.

This is not the first time the river has come under scrutiny. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had earlier reopened proceedings against Karnataka over industrial effluent flowing downstream into Tamil Nadu. The pollution has become an interstate issue, with toxic froth and contaminated water affecting the Kelavarapalli reservoir near Hosur, a key water source for the region. This has drawn repeated protests from Tamil Nadu farmers, who accuse Karnataka of exporting its urban waste at the expense of their agrarian economy. The consequences are equally severe for farmers in Hoskote, Anekal, and neighbouring regions. Toxic leachate from illegally dumped waste can persist in soil and aquifers for years, making ecological restoration increasingly difficult and expensive. The latest dumping also exposes the lucrative economics behind this environmental crime. Waste contractors entrusted with scientifically processing garbage from apartment complexes allegedly collected fees of Rs 12 per kg but instead dumped 10 to 15 truckloads a day into the riverbed, reportedly earning illicit profits running into crores of rupees.

Saving the Dakshina Pinakini will require strong anti-dumping enforcement and scientific restoration

The government must respond with urgency. Illegal dumping syndicates should face stringent criminal prosecution, and errant officials must be held accountable. Continuous surveillance using drones and satellite imagery, strict monitoring of waste transport vehicles, and scientific remediation of polluted stretches should become immediate priorities. Equally important is ensuring that Bengaluru's waste is scientifically processed rather than diverted into natural ecosystems. The Dakshina Pinakini is not a drainage channel for a growing metropolis but a living river that sustains thousands downstream. Restoring its health is not only an environmental obligation but also a moral responsibility owed to future generations.

POWER PLAY

US retreat spurs a Quad regrouping

Wavering American commitment to the bloc is pushing India, Japan, and Australia to step up Indo-Pacific leadership

ABHISHEK SHARMA

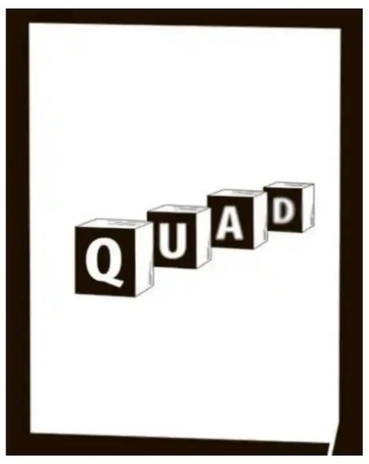
On May 26, the Quad Foreign Ministers met in New Delhi for the first time this year, following the Trump-Xi meeting, which generated a lot of interest. However, the meeting's outcome led to a spike in stress, particularly over its watered-down agenda. The foremost issue that emerged was the United States' ambiguity regarding the Quad leaders' meeting, a signal from Washington of its disinterest in keeping the group running with as much rigour as the previous administration. This shift in the US foreign policy posture brings back memories of 2007, when Australia was seen as uninvested in the bloc.

However, despite the US's perceived downgrading of the Quad, optimism in the region endures, as other Quad members rise to the occasion, ensuring that the values and norms of a free and open Indo-Pacific that undergird the group's existence continue to be upheld, including reinforcing the ASEAN centrality principle. Amid growing uncertainty and given the US's role in the region, Japan, India, and Australia are filling the vacuum. They are working with like-minded partners to ensure a multipolar Asia, in which small and middle powers can exercise agency to shape their future.

Among the three Quad players, Japan is leading from the front. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, in particular, has shown intent to assuage Southeast Asia's concerns. Japan has strategically chosen Vietnam to outline its free and open Indo-Pacific vision, reiterating its support for ASEAN centrality and deepening its developmental partnership with regional allies. Japan emphasises three specific areas: building economic infrastructure, co-creating economic growth, and enhancing regional peace and security, each of which resonates deeply with countries in the region. With South Korea, Takaichi continues to invest political capital, deepening the partnership through shuttle diplomacy, which is critical for deterring North Korea.

Similarly, with Taiwan, too, Japan has put its weight behind Taipei, as the US rethinks its commitment. Regarding maritime security, a critical pillar of the Quad, Tokyo has strengthened its partnership with the Philippines, elevating it to a comprehensive strategic partnership. Through its OSA policy, Tokyo also supports the defence modernisation of regional countries, including small island-states in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. Japan's liberalisation of its defence export policy, including the sale of UNICORN radar systems to India and Mogami-class frigates to Australia, is symbolic of its strategic commitment to regional security.

India is engaging with the larger Indo-Pacific region, driven by its Act East



and MAHASAGAR policies, keeping ASEAN central to its regional strategy. In Southeast Asia, New Delhi is deepening its defence and security partnerships with middle powers such as the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, and Vietnam, as well as with countries such as Cambodia and Laos that have been peripheral to India's regional strategy. Through this, India is enhancing their military capabilities and capacities, be it by exporting coastal defence systems or by helping regional defence forces by extending MRO facilities, as in the case of Malaysia and Vietnam. To safeguard the Indian Ocean region, New Delhi is investing in upgrading the Colombo Security Conclave to be the centrepiece of its regional security architecture.

Australia has also acted steadily, strengthening the regional security architecture. Canberra has elevated its defence ties with Indonesia and Papua New Guinea by signing the Treaty on Common Security and the Mutual Defence Treaty, respectively. With Pacific island-states like Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, Australia is matching deals with China, keeping up the competition. In Southeast Asia, it has doubled down on its ties with the Philippines, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Through these moves, Australia is showcasing its jurisdiction over Oceania, where China is expanding its influence.

An assertion of regional roles

Many of these developments undertaken by Japan, India, and Australia have taken place in the last year, signalling their strategic intent and commitment to regional maritime security. At a time when the US is finding salience in the hub-and-spoke model, its Quad partners continue to back the lattice-work framework model. The US's limited role has forced Quad members to assume greater diplomatic, economic, and military responsibilities to a varying degree, without the US's full support. Their efforts are also an expression of Japan, India, and Australia standing much stronger, individually and collectively, than in 2007 and 2017, the respective years of the Quad's death and its reincarnation.

Their efforts complement Quad's initiatives, reinforcing the importance of a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific. Fast modernisation and upgrading of their militaries for future warfare, expanding their industrial capacity, and preparing for new forms of undersea and drone warfare highlight the sense of urgency among the three players. Japanese drone firms have partnered with Indian companies to build defence autonomy drones. Similarly, India and Australia are working closely on projects to improve undersea domain awareness. While Quad members' collaborative efforts fall short of what's possible with US support, they still go a long way towards maintaining the balance of power in the region.

The Quad's strategic importance to the US has declined, but its members' efforts to uphold the bloc's principles give greater confidence to regional stakeholders, countries, and institutions that remain concerned about Asia moving towards bipolarity. However, another message behind this cooperation is to the great regional powers – the US and China – that the members are no mere pawns in Indo-Pacific politics but significant players in their own right.

(The writer is a junior fellow, Indo-Pacific, at the Strategic Studies Programme at Observer Research Foundation)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Where we gathered stories

The library lent us books, but what it really gave us was a strong community

SHASHIKALA M S

Stories were woven into the fabric of our childhood. We grew up listening to them, reading them and, sometimes, even inventing them.

The 1980s were not an era of overflowing bookshelves. Middle-class budgets had limits, and books were treasured possessions to be borrowed rather than bought. For us, the books were a street away from our home in Jayanagar 9th Block in Bengaluru, at a modest circulating library, Gurudutt Enterprises.

My siblings and I had arrived in Bengaluru from Dharwad, leaving behind the carefree community life of the University of Agricultural Sciences campus where we had spent our early years. In Dharwad, stories flowed as freely as childhood adventures. We exchanged tales, real and imagined, when we were not busy climbing trees for gooseberries or plotting raids on a neighbour's guava tree.

The city felt larger and less intimate. But it was not long before we found our village again in the library with its presiding spirit Chandrashekar—Chandu to the elders, and uncle to all of us children. Sitting behind the counter, he knew every reader—and often their cousins—by name and membership number. He knew their families and their borrowing habits. In his 80s now, he still does.

At home, we already had our staples: *Chandamama*, *Sudha*, *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani*. The library expanded our universe, where we met *Asterix* and Obelix, followed *Tintin* across continents, giggled through *Tinkle* and graduated to *Archie* and his friends in early teens followed by Sidney Sheldon, Jeffrey Archer, Eric Segal, K T Gatti, S L Bhyrappa—you get the drift.

But the books were only part of the attraction.

The library was also our networking hub, or *adda*, long before social media existed. It was where friendships formed, neighbourhood news circulated, and recommendations travelled, perhaps faster than an algorithm. We debated cricket scores, political upheavals, examination results and the occasional teenage romance with equal seriousness, usually over paper cones of spiced *churmuri* or hot *mensinkai bhajji* that uncle or some generous fellow member would bring along.

Today, the library turns 50. Many of us who crowded its shelves as children are now in our middle ages and beyond. We live in different cities and countries, stay connected through phones and social media, and lead lives that would have seemed unimaginably distant back then. Yet the bonds forged in that little library endure.

We still exchange gossip, debate geopolitics, celebrate sporting triumphs and occasionally revisit old crushes and forgotten romances. We continue to sip from the same well, though the conversations now travel across continents.

The library lent us books, but what it really gave us was a strong community. Decades later, it remains an oasis from which we still draw friendship, memory and stories.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Police must learn to tell the difference between choice and coercion

Apropos 'Choice, coercion, and an essential distinction' (Jun 10). The Supreme Court has made a clear and fair point. Trafficking is a crime that must be stopped. But adult sex work by choice is different. For years, the law treated both in the same way. Police would take all women into custody, even if they were working on their own. This hurt their dignity and made life harder. Now the apex court says the police must first ask questions before taking anyone away. This is a sensible step. People who are forced into sex work need help, safety, training, and support to rebuild their lives. But a woman who chooses this work also has rights. The State should protect her, not punish her. Parliament must change the old law, and the police must learn to tell the difference. Laws work best when they respect choice and fight force.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Wrong to reject

The rejection of the nomination of Congress's Meenakshi Natarajan appears to be, *prima facie*, incorrect. The ground for rejection, without giving the candidate a reasonable opportunity to rebut the objection, was that the candidate had not disclosed the details of the FIR allegedly filed against her in her affidavit filed with the nomination form. Even if that is so, it is not a valid reason for rejecting the nomination. The RO cannot go into the veracity or authenticity of the averments made in the affidavit or on the ground that it is defective or incomplete or contains false information. That would require a detailed inquiry to be held, which can be conducted by a high court on an election petition.

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

End of guarantees?

This refers to 'A public goods pivot for Karnataka' (June 10). It appears to be a teaser setting the ground for gradual withdrawal of the five guarantee schemes, which have played havoc with the state's economy. The new chief minister has his task cut out given that he has only two years to bring the state back from the precipice besides ensuring his party's victory in the next election.

Vasuki K N, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

...I am firmly convinced that today's youth live not just for themselves but for the nation; they possess immense potential. I believe India's new generation will indeed find solutions to global challenges.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister

You ain't got to run your mouth. All you got to do is let your actions speak.

Young Dolph

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Courts must discard ableist language

Judicial observations that stigmatise disability undermine constitutional guarantees of dignity and equality

ARUSHI SINGH AND VIJAY K TIWARI

There are new and radical ways to imagine our constitutional discourse from the vantage of people who have been at the margins of our constitutional imagination. However, it is easier said than done because, in the Indian context, the normative majority often makes sense of and interprets the Constitution. In doing so, it brings its own lived experiences and prejudices while interpreting the Constitution. Persons with disabilities often find themselves at the receiving end of such prejudiced meaning-making of the Constitution by able-bodied people.

The Supreme Court in the past has affirmed that judges should strictly adhere to constitutional values and not be guided by prejudice. However, like any other human being, judges are prone to making errors and holding personal biases. Hence, their interpretation of the law often gets coloured by their privileged worldview, in which subaltern experiences are stigmatised.

Last week, in an instance that came before the Karnataka High Court, a judge orally observed that 'The law has lost its teeth because we do not deal firmly with offenders, and if a leg or a hand is chopped, then people will realise to comply with the law.' The remark, while undermining constitutional principles and the justice system, also risks dismantling the Supreme Court's carefully developed discourse on disability inclusion in recent years.

The remark treats disability as a diminished state of being and a lifelong 'punishment. This stands in stark contradiction to the litany of Supreme Court judgments where, time and again, it has been held that persons with disabilities are integral members of society, and entitled to enjoy the same human rights, freedom, and dignity as others. Such postulates regarding equality and dignity, rooted in Article 21 of the Constitution, also underpin the construction of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

In the instant case, the dilemma lies with the interpretation of the remark and the context in which it was used. Enabling disability violence as a form of punishment alludes to the fact that disability is a fate worse than that of criminals and that there exists a 'normal' that good members of society must ascribe to. In his essay 'Constructing Normalcy', Lennard J Davis argues that the issue lies with the construction of normalcy, which creates the very category of disability. While the term 'normal' is relatively recent, 'ideal' has been used historically to describe human bodies in mythology. The normalcy indicated in the remark implies that the condition of disability is looked down upon by society and encourages the disabled to internalise a certain sense of shame that is systemically produced. The remark also appears to cultivate a fear of disability, thus refusing to appreciate the finer nuances and diverse forms of disability while further reinforcing ableist assumptions.

Words as violence

The court's loose suggestion of collapsing disability into a penalty also clashes with the constitutional values of a fair trial under Article 21, where the court has consistently expanded the contours of the provision to state that the procedure under which the person is deprived of life or liberty should be just, fair, and reasonable. This interpretation of the Constitution demands a deeper judicial commitment that procedures sanctioned by law can never be arbitrary or prejudiced. The High Court's remark that legitimises bodily mutilation as a form of deterrence offends human dignity and seeks to reject this very rationale of the apex court. When a remark is not operative or is held as part of a judgment, courts should approach it cautiously, as judicial language can shape cultures and societal mindsets.

However, this suggestion by the judge should not be taken as an isolated incident. We have witnessed extra-judicial 'half' encounters named as 'Operation *Langda*' by Uttar Pradesh Police. In fact, the English translation of 'Operation *Langda*' as 'Half Encounters' does not capture the semantic violence built into it. This naming of police action as such indicates that our State machinery sees disability as a stigmatised and diminished state of being. Such discourse tends to valorise State action that erodes due process and simultaneously frames disability as stigma and punishment.

India's disability justice movement must take note of these worrisome developments. These *obiter dicta*, State actions, and discourses roll back the progress made in disability justice. Moreover, in a democracy, the existence of a group of people cannot be framed as punishment.

(Arushi is an assistant professor of Legal Practice at the O P Jindal Global University; Vijay is an assistant professor [Law] at the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata)

'Army restructuring is about building combat capabilities relevant to future battlefields'

Gen Upendra Dwivedi, *Chief of the Army Staff, in conversation with* **Kalyan Ray**

THE DEEP TAKE

The 88-hour-long conflict between India and Pakistan last year brought drone combat to South Asia for the first time. General Upendra Dwivedi, who has been leading the Indian Army's technology-driven transformation, ensured that the pace of modernisation accelerated after Operation Sindoor. On the eve of his retirement, Gen Dwivedi speaks on issues ranging from the army's future plans to Agniveers. *Excerpts*:

● What is the current situation along the northern borders with China?

The situation along the northern borders is stable but sensitive. The agreements on disengagement have improved stability on the ground. Both sides are now showing greater responsiveness and sensitivity to each other's concerns. Renewed diplomatic and military engagements have helped reduce tensions and build a measure of mutual confidence. There are positive indicators of gradual normalisation, including the formation of an experts' group for boundary delimitation, a working group for border management, the resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and direct flights, consensus on border trade through three passes and visa relaxation measures. At the military level, more than 1,100 ground-level interactions take place annually between the two sides, helping resolve local issues through established mechanisms.

● The Indian Army is undertaking major force restructuring. How do you assess this reorganisation? What are the planned expansions in these new structures?

Future conflicts will be multi-domain, technology-intensive and increasingly non-linear. Land operations will remain central, but they will be closely integrated with air, cyber, space, the electromagnetic spectrum and the cognitive domain. Our restructuring is about building combat capabilities relevant to future battlefields.

As part of this transformation, we are progressing new-age structures such as Rudra Brigades, Bhairav Battalions, Shaktibaan Regiments, Divyastra Batteries and Ashni Drone Platoons. In the first phase, we have two Rudra Brigades, with a projection to operationalise three more in the coming years, based on terrain, threat, resources and validation. The Bhairav Battalions are designed to give the army a flexible and high-readiness option for demanding missions. We currently have 21 Bhairav battalions, with a planned expansion to 25 battalions.

Scan to read the full interview

At the infantry battalion level, around 382 Ashni Drone Platoons will enhance surveillance, target acquisition, tactical drone employment and battlefield awareness at the cutting edge.

Similarly, more than 25 Shaktibaan Regiments and more than 34 Divyastra Batteries are under raising to add precision, reach and technology-enabled effects. The intent is to ensure that technology is not concentrated only at higher levels but is available to formations and units where it can directly shape battlefield outcomes.

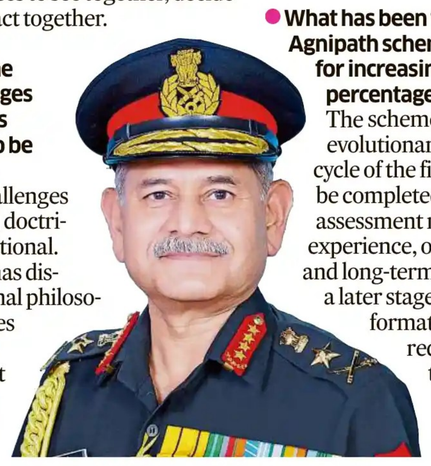
● What's the progress in realising the Integrated Battle Group?

The IBG concept seeks to create agile, self-contained and mission-oriented formations capable of faster response across varied operational scenarios. It has been tested, studied and refined, and presently one mountain strike corps will be reorganised with IBGs within a short time-frame.

In addition, electronic warfare brigades are being raised to strengthen our ability to operate in a contested electromagnetic environment. Rudra, Bhairav, Ashni, Shaktibaan, Divyastra, Electronic Warfare Brigades and IBGs are not separate or isolated initiatives. They form part of one larger transformation logic. As Chief, my focus has been to ensure that every new structure adds real operational value.

● What is the current status of theaterisation? How quickly can the theatre commands be realised?

The proposal has been moved to the government for approval. Once approved, implementation will have to be phased, as a reform of this scale cannot be rushed. It has to be operationally sound, legally supported, administratively workable and future-ready. The objective is to create Theatre Commands that provide unity of command, unity of effort and single-point responsibility in a defined theatre, enabling the armed forces to see together, decide together and act together.



● What are the major challenges or bottlenecks that are still to be resolved?

The major challenges are structural, doctrinal and institutional. Each service has distinct operational philosophies, doctrines and resource structures that evolved over decades. Issues such as getting the theatre design right, preserving service expertise while ensuring joint primacy, air power employment, clear command and control mechanisms, interoperable communication and data networks, compatible equipment, integrated logistics chains and standardised administrative policies require careful harmonisation. These are not differences of intent but issues that must be resolved methodically to ensure that theaterisation strengthens operational readiness and national combat power.

● What has been the feedback on the Agnipath scheme? Is there a case for increasing the retention percentage beyond 25%?

The scheme remains an evolutionary process. The full cycle of the first batch is yet to be completed, and any final assessment must be based on experience, operational feedback and long-term performance. If at a later stage, feedback from the formations and operational requirements indicate the need for refinement, the matter can be examined institutionally.

River interlinking without considering climate change and ecological imbalances will only lead to greater disasters

NABAMITA MITRA

Villagers protest against the Ken-Betwa ILR project at the Daudhan dam site in Chhatarpur. IMAGE COURTESY: AMIT BHATNAGAR

ILR dreams of a Pyrrhic victory

For the past few months, tribal villagers in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur and Panna districts have been protesting against the Ken-Betwa basin interlinking project and the authorities' high-handedness.

The Ken-Betwa is among the 30 interlinking of rivers (ILR) projects which were conceived in the eighties and nineties. The idea is to interlink rivers across the country to create a "water grid".

After years of meandering through the judicial and legislative maze, the NDA government expedited the work on the ILR programme despite the Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court raising serious concerns about the environmental impact of the project, the destruction of large swathes of the Panna Tiger Reserve and the loss of thousands of trees.

In the light of the Ken-Betwa controversy, one wonders whether the ILR programme is at all feasible and whether the government must rethink the entire programme.

"I see no merit (in ILR). How is it going to benefit marginal farmers, ecology or the displaced communities?" says Shailaja Deshpande of Jeevitnadi Living River Foundation, a Pune-based non-profit organisation.

Deshpande's misgivings are not unfounded given that the programme does not consider the "climate change, water equality or ecological sustainability perspectives".

With no thorough study of the impact of climate change, the ILR programme loses dynamism. Basins marked as "surplus" regions may not have the capacity to feed the "deficit" zones in the long run, as impacts of changing climatic conditions may create adversities.

Here, the case of Punjab can be cited. The state refused to share irrigation water with Haryana and Rajasthan through canals and passed the Punjab Termination of Agreements Bill, 2004, to annul a 1981 water-sharing pact. The argument was that the volume of Ravi-Beas water has reduced drastically over the years.

It is one of the many examples that show how not including climate change as a key variable in the dynamics of water-sharing and interlinking can lead to major socio-political conflicts across the country.

"There is a model, called the water allocation model, where it looks at how climate change will alter the availability of water. I don't think the scientific model is being well-integrated into the planning," said Harini Santhanam, associate professor of Environmental Science at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, about the Ken-Betwa project.

Echoing Santhanam, Rajarshi Das Bhowmik, assistant professor at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Water Research, Indian Institute of Science, says neither the long-term impact of climate change nor the numerous scenarios arising out of the crisis has been thoroughly and systematically investigated.

Cost variables

The ILR programme is a hope, albeit bleak, for the future and not a promise for the present. Of the 30 links that NWDA identified in the nineties, only 11 have seen some progress. Of these, Ken-Betwa is the only live one. Considering the implementation momentum so far, this project may take over two to three decades to be completed.

The cost overruns in that case will be massive. In the case of Ken-Betwa, the cost has increased 2,100% (from Rs 2,000 crore to over Rs 44,000 crore) as the scope of the project has expanded.

This colossal financial burden will have to be borne by taxpayers and, in the long run, will affect essential developmental schemes in sectors such as healthcare and education.

According to water conservationist S Vishwanath, the cost and the environmental impact far override the benefits. Citing the example of the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Supply Project in Karnataka, he says that "after spending Rs 20,000 crore, we do not have a drop of water".

"It is time we work more on local watersheds," he says.

There are also social and cultural costs involving the displaced population. According to Santhanam, loss of social stability due to displacement, culture, and traditional and indigenous knowledge, such as boat-making and fishing, are some of the aspects which are seldom considered. "Also, there is an emotional cost (caused by climate change or displacement), and there is no parameter to measure it," she says.

These tangible and intangible costs make ILRs even more unfeasible, making consideration of "other options" imperative.

"Among the options are rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, watershed development, desolation of local water bodies and optimisation of cropping patterns as the primary steps," says Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator at South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers & People.

Nomenclature ambiguities

The entire programme has several ambiguities in terms of nomenclatures. A major ambiguity is in describing the programme as a megaproject. Rectifying the misnomer, Vishwanath says it is a set of proposed interlinkings that are or will be implemented individually. The nomenclature in this case needs to be clarified, for this will define the cost estimation.

Second, saying that the programme will create a water grid, in the lines of a power grid, across the country is misleading. Unlike electricity, water flow is a one-way phenomenon. This argument is also raised by Amit Bhatnagar, who has been spearheading the protests against the Ken-Betwa project.

"The Ken River's source elevation is 550 m above sea level, while that of Betwa's is 576 m. So, how can water be channelled effectively from the lower to the upper elevation?" says Bhatnagar.

The last, and most important, is the usage of absolute terms like 'surplus' and 'deficit'. Once climate change is incorporated into the dynamics of the programme, these two absolutes become variables, making the benefits of ILRs even more difficult to define.

The crucial one of all the arguments is around environmental degradation. Bhatnagar says, despite the protests, work on the Ken-Betwa project has already begun, and about 30,000 trees have been felled.

"River linking would be an ecological disaster. Source regions' security depends on dense canopy and groundwater resources, which will be lost forever, making it more vulnerable to disasters. Forests will get submerged. Natural flows will be diverted or changed, leading to irreversible loss of river ecosystems," says Deshpande.

Rampant deforestation will adversely affect soil quality and groundwater reserves in the long run. Hence, this irreversible destruction is not only redundant but also a foolish move that will impede community development in the future.

Karnataka in focus

Of the 11 approved detailed project reports under the ILR programme, at least three are directly or indirectly related to Karnataka and the Cauvery. The state has seen protests similar to the Ken-Betwa link.

In 2022, local activists opposed the plan to interlink the Bedti and the Varada, saying the project would destroy 2,125 acres of forest area in the Western Ghats.

Karnataka is already embroiled in water disputes with Goa over the Mahadayi and Tamil Nadu over the Cauvery. The interlinking projects will further complicate the socio-politico-economic situation among the states.

IISc's Das Bhaumik points out that "water utility in the fast-growing urban pockets of the state has changed". But it is not clear how the ILR programme can align with the urban water requirements, though the Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Veeranna Somanna, is confident that the state-focused ILR projects will not only take care of irrigation but also benefit the cities.

Whether or not the ILR programme is the answer to the water woes of Karnataka and the rest of the country remains debatable, but it is safe to say that if achieved, it will be a Pyrrhic victory for generations to come.

However, that is barely a concern for our public representatives because currently, the ILR has become more a political show of strength than a debate on sustainable development. **DHNS**

Bengaluru's failure to save the bicycle

STANLEY CARVALHO

After I quit my full-time job and returned to good old Bengaluru, one of the first things I bought was an Atlas bicycle. It was the last piece in the shop, standing like a sore thumb among a gleaming array of sleek, high-tech cycles with their lightweight frames and fancy gears.

It was mid-2020, and Covid had brought the world to a standstill. Around the same time, Atlas Cycles announced the closure of its manufacturing units. I wasted no time in buying the bicycle, delighted with my purchase. Here I was, the proud owner of an iconic brand that seemed destined for extinction. Yet the greater thrill lay elsewhere; it was the prospect of getting back to cycling after many years.

As a schoolboy, cycling had been one of life's purest joys. With the wind in my hair and the open road before me, I would pedal through Bengaluru's quiet, tree-lined streets of the 1970s, almost singing aloud the lines from Beeching's poem:

Is this, is this your joy?
O bird, then I, though a boy,
For a golden moment to share
Your feathery life in air!

Those words perfectly captured the freedom I felt on two wheels.

Always hungry for adventure, a bunch of us friends would set off every Saturday for the city's outskirts. We revelled in the calm surroundings of lakes, vineyards, open fields and empty grounds. We rode one-handed and, on downhill stretches, sometimes with no hands at all, risking life and limb for the sheer exhilaration of it. We travelled doubles, or 'dubs', and occasionally even triples, something that was considered unlawful. The sight of a policeman would send us scampering in the opposite direction, often managing to give him the slip.

When I brought home that Atlas cycle, these memories came flooding back with surprising force, filling me with a youthful enthusiasm to relive those carefree days. Covid had emptied Bengaluru's roads. With offices shut, people working from home and many reluctant to step outdoors, traffic had thinned to a trickle.

And so began my long-awaited return to cycling.

Throughout the pandemic, I rode religiously. I revisited old haunts, explored newly developed neighbourhoods and rediscovered a city that was both familiar and strangely transformed. Every ride became a journey through memory and change.

The Bengaluru of my childhood had largely disappeared. Gone were the gracious bungalows, quaint cottages, colourful traffic circles and lush green avenues with few scooters, fewer cars and many bicycles. In their place stood rows of apartment blocks packed cheek-by-jowl, silently proclaiming, "Welcome to the concrete jungle." Occasionally, I caught curious glances from passers-by and wondered if I appeared an oddity. Perhaps I did. In all those months, I scarcely saw another cyclist on the road.

Still, I took it in my stride. After all, change is the only constant.

Then, mercifully, Covid receded. Life returned to normal, and paradoxically, so did my cycling. The roads once again filled with vehicles hurtling along as though there were no tomorrow. The very thought of cycling on roads with impatient motorists became intimidating. Reluctantly, I gave up an activity I had loved since childhood.

It was then that a sobering thought struck me. In its relentless pursuit of development, Bengaluru seems to have failed the bicycle. Dedicated cycling infrastructure is scarce, cycle paths are almost non-existent, and riding a bicycle on many roads feels less like recreation and more like an act of bravado. A city that once embraced cycling has, over the years, pushed it to the margins.

Lack of vision by the city's planners to make Bengaluru a cycle-friendly city can rightly be said to be one of the causes for the massive traffic jams and pollution on roads. Nor have lessons been learnt from Western countries that have created the right infrastructure to promote cycling as a mode of transport.

A city with relatively short distances where cycling was the preferred mode of transport has morphed into a mega tech city with a poor public transport system, forcing people to opt for two-wheelers or four-wheelers. Will there be a resurgence of the humble bicycle? I doubt it.

As for my trusty Atlas, it stands chained and forgotten, gathering dust in a corner, its tyres flat and spirit subdued. With no repair shops nearby and my cycling dreams all but extinguished, I have decided to part with my prized possession.

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based independent journalist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

India, Russia sign declaration to further amity

Moscow, June 11
India and the Soviet Union today signed a joint declaration on the further development of friendship and co-operation between the two countries. The signing ceremony took place at 11-30 a.m. in the Kremlin's Vladimir Hall after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi held a final session of talks with Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev on the fourth day of her official visit to the Soviet Union.

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

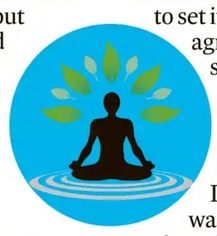
Dawaram heads joint task forces

Chennai, June 11
Former Director-General of Police and Special Task Force chief Walter I Dawaram will head the joint task forces of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka engaged in the pursuit of forest brigand Veerappan, Chief Minister J Jayalalitha announced today. Talking to reporters at the state Secretariat after a courtesy meeting with a high-level official team from Karnataka sent to discuss strategy for coordination between the two states, Ms Jayalalitha said she spoke to her Karnataka counterpart S M Krishna and he had agreed to the proposal.

OASIS | PRIYA ANAND

When *karma* comes calling

Hearing the news of Duryodhana's death, a devastated Dhritarashtra questions Krishna that if loss of a son can hurt the soul so deeply, "Why do I alone have to bear the loss of all my hundred sons to this war?" Krishna replies, "Born as hunter in one of your past lives, your arrow once missed the bird you targeted. In rage, you destroyed the entire nest of the bird including the eggs that were hatching." No one escapes the cycle of *karma*, every action has consequences and hence you are facing the wrath now. A saying goes 'when a bird is alive, it eats ants and when it dies, the ants eat it.' People and circumstances change with time. Time is a great leveller.



A Buddha quote reads, '*Karma* is not a cosmic punishment, but a universal law of cause and effect. Your actions create your reality.' On the other side of the battlefield, the victorious Yudhishtira too was distraught, blaming himself as the cause of this gory war . Bhishma notices and narrates a dialogue in the form of a story to convince Yudhishtira.

Gautami's only son dies after being bitten by a snake. Arjunaka, a hunter, vows to find the snake. He ties the snake and brings it to Gautami to decide its fate. Gautami asks Arjunaka to set it free. But Arjunaka does not agree and decides to kill it. The snake, fearing for its life begins to speak. It pleads that biting the child wasn't its choice. Death had instructed it to do so. Upon questioning Death, he answered that it wasn't his decision either. He obeyed Kala's command and did what was to be done. When Kala was interrogated about the same, he replied that it was the child's own decision and we followed it up. Every life chooses its own life and likewise decides its end. Gautami then advises Arjunaka that by killing the snake, my child will not come back, but the act of killing the snake will add sins to your *karma*. Arjunaka understands and releases the snake back into the forest.

Yudhishtira, after being consoled that Kauravas' fate was their own destiny, returns to Hastinapur. He was instrumental in bringing order (*dharma*) back into the society. In Sadguru's words, "*Karma* means your life is your making. *Karmic* accumulation can either be a boost or a burden — that's your choice."

IN BRIEF

Will remove AFSPA from NE next year: Shah

▸ **NEW DELHI, PTI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA will be withdrawn from the entire Northeast next year, barring one or two states. He was speaking at the signing of a tripartite MoU between the Centre, Assam and Nagaland to facilitate mineral oil operations in the Assam-Nagaland boundary areas.

ED to move SC in NewsClick case

▸ **NEW DELHI, PTI:** The Enforcement Directorate has decided to challenge in the Supreme Court a Delhi High Court's order that quashed a money laundering case against news portal NewsClick and its editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha on charges of violation of FDI rules, officials said on Thursday. The HC's May 29 order "overlooked or left unaddressed" several critical contentions raised by the prosecution, they said.

Woman raped at 'gunpoint'

▸ **BAHRAICH (UP), PTI:** After a woman accused her father-in-law of repeatedly raping her at gunpoint and her husband of pronouncing triple talaq over the phone, police have registered a case against five members of her in-laws' family. Meanwhile, officials said the husband alleged that his wife had a relationship with another person and that the couple had been facing marital disputes over the issue.

Sunetra talks tough on infight

▸ **MUMBAI, DHNS:** Amid internal bickering in her party following the untimely death of Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP national president Sunetra Pawar asserted on Thursday that indiscipline would not be tolerated and that she would not hesitate to take "strong decisions" following in the footsteps of her late husband.

Army to get e-warfare brigades, says Gen Dwivedi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Preparing for future battles, the Indian Army is raising Electronic Warfare (EW) brigades for the force to operate in a "contested electromagnetic environment", Chief of the Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi said here.

"EW Brigades are being raised to strengthen our ability to operate in a contested electromagnetic environment... They form part of one larger transformation logic," Gen Dwivedi told *DH* in an interview.

The edge

While the Army chief didn't disclose details about these EW brigades, such dedicated units — equipped with modern technologies — would be able to track, intercept, and block the enemy's communication and radar networks, giving an edge to Indian troops.

Mamata aide targets Abhishek; two TMC MPs exit Rajya Sabha

Cracks widen; Shatrughan denies joining rebels

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Trouble mounted for the Trinamool Congress on Thursday, with Kalyan Banerjee, a long-trusted associate of party chief Mamata Banerjee, launching an attack on her nephew and TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee. The day also saw Prakash Chik Baraik and Koel Mullick resigning from the Rajya Sabha.

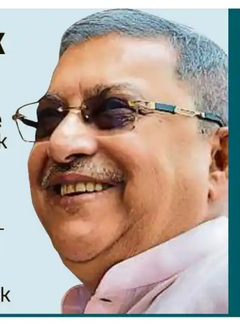
Meanwhile, TMC Lok Sabha members Shatrughan Sinha and Pratima Mondal denied joining the rebel bandwagon.

Baraik and Mullick became the third and fourth members to quit the Upper House after Sukhendu Sekhar Ray and Sushmita Dev, signalling their departure from Mamata's party. Babul Supriyo, another TMC Rajya Sabha member, dismissed speculation about joining the rebels, saying it would be inappropriate to abandon the party "when the ship is in trouble".

Abhishek returned to Kolkata from Delhi and appeared before the West Bengal police for questioning in connection with the alleged forgery of TMC legislators' signatures on a resolution electing Sovandev Chattopadhyay as leader of the legislative party.

'Abhishek arrogant'

- **Kalyan Banerjee** accuses Abhishek of arrogance, blames him for party crisis
- Asks Mamata to choose between him and Abhishek



- Prakash Chik Baraik and Koel Mullick quit RS
- Babul Supriyo backs Mamata, rejects speculation of joining rebels

Earlier in the day, lawyer-turned-politician Kalyan Banerjee publicly accused Abhishek of arrogance and blamed him for the existential crisis the party has faced since being voted out in the elections. He also issued an ultimatum to Mamata to choose between him and her nephew.

"I will urge Didi: if you remain dependent on Abhishek, then stick with him and leave me. But if you part ways with him, then I am with you," said Kalyan, the Chief Whip of the TMC in the Lok Sabha.

After the poll debacle, several TMC leaders publicly criticised Abhishek, who had emerged as the party's numero due in recent years, blaming him and the political consultancy firm I-PAC, engaged by him, for the defeat.

Though at least 58 of the party's 294 MLAs and around 17 or 18 of its 28 Lok Sabha members revolted recently, Kalyan had until then remained loyal to Mamata. His outburst against Abhishek on Thursday came after the TMC general secretary decided to replace him as counsel in a Calcutta High Court case related to a CID summons over the alleged signature forgery.

"I will not appear for Abhishek Banerjee in any case because I do not like his arrogant attitude," Kalyan told journalists on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Pratima Mondal, elected to the Lok Sabha from Basirhat on a TMC ticket, dismissed speculation that she was part of the rebellion led by colleagues Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and Satabdi Ray.

Actor-turned-parliamentarian Shatrughan Sinha also dismissed talk of joining the rebels, reaffirming his support for Mamata.

Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat@2047
शासी परिषद की ग्यारहवीं बैठक
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council
11 June 2026

PM Narendra Modi during the 11th meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog, in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

In a first, all 28 CMs attend NITI Aayog meeting

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

For the first time since its inception in 2015, chief ministers of all 28 states attended the NITI Aayog governing council meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

Lieutenant governors and administrators of Union Territories (UTs) also attended the day-long meeting held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in the national capital.

Speaking at the 11th edition of the annual meeting, the prime minister asked states to work together to accelerate India's development journey. "The collective efforts of the Centre and states will play a pivotal role in realising our shared vision of Viksit Bharat," Modi said in a post on X.

The PM highlighted the need for coordinated efforts to address emerging social challenges such as drug abuse and cyber fraud through preventive measures, awareness campaigns and effective governance.

He also drew attention to concerns arising from El Nino conditions and appealed to states to promote water conservation and encourage natural and organic farming practices, as per an official statement released after the meeting.

Briefing the media, NITI Aayog vice chairperson Ashok Kumar Lahiri said that Modi and some chief ministers outlined medium and short-term goals for Viksit Bharat.

"Viksit Bharat is not a distant goal of only 2047. It means we have to implement a few things and achieve a few goals by such and such date," Lahiri said.

Global uncertainties

During the meeting, the PM also spoke about global uncertainties. However, he claimed that India continues to move forward on its growth trajectory with confidence.

Referring to India's recently concluded trade agreements with several countries, Modi asked states to create opportunities for youth and MSMEs and equip stakeholders to leverage the benefits arising from these agreements.

BJP, allies bag 19 RS seats unopposed

I.N.D.I.A wins 5; election to three seats on June 18

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP and allies on Thursday won 19 Rajya Sabha seats unopposed — including three in Madhya Pradesh after the Returning Officer refused to reinstate Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination — while the rival I.N.D.I.A bloc saw five of its candidates elected without contest.

Elections will be held on June 18 for two seats in Jharkhand and for one in Mizoram.

Of the 24 seats that saw elections without contest, three were bypolls in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. NDA held 16 of these seats, while the Opposition camp retained eight — five by I.N.D.I.A parties and three by the YSR Congress.

In a decision that drew the Congress' ire, the Returning Officer in Madhya Pradesh declared three BJP candidates — Tarun Chugh, Rajneesh Agrawal and Mahesh Kewat — elected after refusing to reconsider his rejection of Natarajan's nomination.

In Mizoram, the ruling ZPM and Opposition MNF are locked in a contest, with the former tipped to win.

In Karnataka, the Congress secured three seats — including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge — up from one, while the NDA, which had three, got only one.

Andhra Pradesh saw NDA sweep all four seats, with TDP winning three and Jana Sena one. The winners are B Ramakrishna, C Vijay and Sana Satish Babu (all TDP) and L Ramesh (Jana Sena). In Gujarat, BJP won all four seats — Rajubhai Shukla, Mansinh Parmar, Mukeshbhai Rathwa and Jitendra Kanjariya — wresting the lone Congress seat held by Shaktisinh Gohil.

Rajasthan saw status quo, with BJP winning two seats — Alka Gurjar and Satish Poonia — while Congress' Neeraj Dangi retained his. In Meghalaya, NPP's James Sangma was elected unopposed. BJP's Tai Tagak won in Arunachal Pradesh and A Sharda Devi in Manipur.

In the bypolls, BJP's Debashish Samantray won from Odisha, NCP's Rajendra Jain from Maharashtra and Congress's Praveen Chakravarty from Tamil Nadu.

Police personnel stop Youth Congress activists as they stage a protest after the rejection of party candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination, in Bhopal on Thursday. PTI

RS setback: Apex court to hear Natarajan's plea today

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan on Thursday approached the Supreme Court challenging the rejection of her nomination for the Rajya Sabha elections from Madhya Pradesh. The apex court agreed to hear the plea on Friday.

Meenakshi Natarajan

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Natarajan, mentioned the matter for urgent listing before an apex court bench comprising Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Atul S Chandurkar.

Singhvi submitted that the returning officer rejected Natarajan's nomination papers on the ground that she had suppressed a criminal case.

He argued that no cognisance had been taken in the case and she had only received a pre-cognisance summons under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). As per Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act, only cases where cognisance has been taken are required to be disclosed in the nomination papers, he contended.

The SC questioned the maintainability of the petition, noting that courts generally do not interfere in election matters at the interim stage. Singhvi submitted that the court can step in when there are glaring errors.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the rival candidate, and senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, for the EC, opposed the maintainability of the petition.

Rahul alleges 'seat theft' in Madhya Pradesh

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP and the Election Commission of a "jugalbandi" that has finished the Rajya Sabha with "seat theft", alleging differential treatment in handling the nominations of a Congress candidate and a BJP-backed independent facing affidavit discrepancies.

The Returning Officer in Madhya Pradesh refused to reverse the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's papers for not disclosing a court case, paving the way for a BJP win. In Jharkhand, the poll official cleared the papers of BJP-backed Parimal Nathwani despite discrepancies. "The BJP-EC jugalbandi has finished the contest before it has even begun," Rahul said.

BJP in a spot as ex-MP insinuates Ram Temple 'missing fund' charge

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The BJP found itself in a spot as one of its leaders, former MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, appeared to support the allegations of embezzlement of offerings at Ayodhya's Ram Temple.

Replying to reporters' questions in Gonda about the allegations, Singh said he could not speak the truth because he was afraid of the consequences.

"See, I can't speak the truth, as I would otherwise be in trouble... They are very powerful people... I can't speak the truth out of fear," he said. He, however, added that he would speak the truth at the "right time".

Meanwhile, another senior BJP leader and former Ayodhya MP, Vinay Katiyar, demanded an independent probe into the matter, saying it concerned the faith of millions of devotees.

Some Ayodhya-based seers also joined the issue and sought a probe into the matter. "An impartial and transparent inquiry must be conducted to ascertain the truth," said Mahant Kamal Nayan Das.

The Mahant of Ayodhya-based Dantdhawan Kund, Vivek Acharya, also demanded a probe into the matter.

The demands for a probe come amid reports that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has sought a report on the allegations of "missing donation money" at the Ram Temple.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav had claimed that there were reports of crores of rupees, received as offerings at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, were "missing".

Indian Navy removes missile warhead from vessel hit near Oman coast

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a complex mid-sea operation, the Indian Navy successfully removed a missile warhead from the fuel tank of a commercial crude oil tanker MT Olympic Life, which was hit near the Oman coast, averting a potential high-risk situation.

The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, which did not have any Indian national onboard was on passage from Fujairah in the UAE, to Kochi when it reported an explosion in its hull, off the coast of Oman on May 26.

The vessel reported the presence of an unexploded ordnance but it continued its transit toward Kochi, sources said.

On receiving the information through the Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region, the Indian Navy initiated a coordinated response.

Kochi based Southern Naval Command deployed a specialist Explosive Ordnance Disposal team for a detailed assessment. The team confirmed that a projectile had penetrated the vessel's hull, traversed multiple structural compartments and lodged inside a fuel tank.

Given the risks associated with an unexploded missile warhead inside a fuel storage compartment, the EOD team adopted a deliberate and phased approach to ensure the safety of the ship, its crew and surrounding port infrastructure.

The recovered ordnance, according to sources, has been transported to a secure facility for safe stowage and detailed examination.

Worry, anger rise as Manipur unrest spreads

FROM THE GROUND

SUMIR KARMAKAR
IMPHAL, DHNS

"Wait and watch now," Thounajam Samarendra Singh, a middle-aged trader belonging to the Meitei community, told *DH* here as the news about the recovery of the bodies of six abducted Nagas poured in on Wednesday afternoon.

The bodies were recovered a day after the Nagas released 14 Kuki hostages following church leaders' and the state government's appeals and the Naga apex body United Naga Council's intervention.

As anger spread, two Kuki men were killed, and several houses were burnt at Kultuh, a Kuki village in Naga-dominated Kamjong district, in the early hours of Thursday.

Samarendra feared more such attacks and counterattacks involving the Nagas and the Kukis in the days ahead, as the conflict that engulfed Manipur three years ago expanded to the hills.

The Meitei-Kuki conflict that started in May 2023 has already resulted in the death of more than 260 people and the displacement of over 60,000 others, both in the Meitei-dominated Valley and the Kuki-dominated hills. It remains unresolved.

The attention now is on another bout of conflict — involving the Kukis and the Nagas. It began over an alleged drunken brawl in Ukhrul, another Naga-dominated district, in February. More than 20 people have been killed since. "It could have been averted if the Kukis freed the Naga hostages," said Samarendra.

Many here fear that another Naga-Kuki conflict could be difficult to control. The last major one was in the 1990s, when more than 1,000 Kukis and 400 Nagas were killed.

The tension has remained, primarily over land. Kukis claim their "homeland" overlaps with the ambition of "Nagalim or Greater Nagaland," comprising parts of the Manipur hills, Nagaland, and parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

This old anger returned when the NSCN-IM — the biggest Naga armed group, which has been in ceasefire since 1997 — on June 8 called the Kukis "refugees" and alleged that the Central government was allowing "Kuki incursion", using them as "a proxy to wage a shadow war against the Naga national resistance movement".

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), an apex body of the Kukis, countered quickly, urging the authorities to initiate action against the movement of armed NSCN-IM cadres in Manipur. The KIM also alleged "collusion" between the NSCN-IM and Meitei "radical groups".

People carry the coffin containing the body of one of six Naga men found dead, at the mortuary in Imphal, Manipur. REUTERS

'People losing faith in govt': Kin refuse to accept victims' bodies

IMPHAL, DHNS

Paisho Thiumai, a young Naga pastor, ran from pillar to post to secure the release of his brothers, Manu and Dilip, since they were waylaid and allegedly abducted by a Kuki armed group from the Lailon Vaiphei village in the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district on May 13.

It was the day of Paisho's marriage reception at their village. Konsakhul and his brothers were returning from a nearby village with their families when they were waylaid. At least 28 hostages — 14 each from the Nagas and the Kukis — were freed two days later. However, six Nagas and 14 Kukis were held captive.

Paisho was hoping for good news on Tuesday after Nagas freed the 14 Kukis. His hope was dashed on Wednesday when the security forces found the missing Nagas' bodies.

"We trusted the government, made rounds of the police station and the Central forces' camps. They failed us. It seems the government is not serious about law and order in Manipur," Paisho told *DH* while waiting outside the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences morgue on Thursday.

Like him, the kin of the other victims were growing impatient to see their dear ones, but were unwilling to accept their bodies till justice was delivered.

"Those responsible for the murders must be arrested before we take the bodies home," said Saimon Chawang, whose brother-in-law Phenrongwi Thuimai (41) was also killed.

CJP launches nationwide campaign from Pune

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday kicked off a national protest campaign, reiterating his demand for the removal of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, even as Shiv Sena (UBT) MP raised questions over its founder by posting a picture purportedly showing him with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dipke, however, denied the claim, alleging that the image was AI-generated.

Hundreds of students joined the CJP protest at the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) campus, where organisers sought to highlight concerns over repeated examination paper leaks, technical glitches and delays affecting competitive examinations across the country.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke during a protest in Pune on Thursday. CREDIT: X

Adding weight to the campaign, social activist Sonam Wangchuk arrived in Pune to extend support to the movement.

The organisers said the campaign would travel across several cities, including Jaipur, Lucknow, Amritsar and Bengaluru, before culminating in a major demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on June 20. "We are starting our nationwide protest from the SPPU campus. The movement will remain peaceful and within the framework of the Constitution. We will also release our education manifesto outlining reforms needed in the education sector," Dipke said.

Dipke said Pune was chosen because of its historic role in shaping India's educational landscape and because the issues confronting students today have assumed national dimensions. "This is not merely a protest against one examination or one incident, but against systemic failures that continue to affect students across the country," he said.

UP youth among those killed in attack on Indian tanker

Shivanand Chaurasia had been working for seven months

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A resident of Uttar Pradesh's Deoria district was among those killed in the US strike on an Indian tanker in the Gulf of Oman on Wednesday.

According to reports, 38-year-old Shivanand Chaurasia, a resident of Surauli village in the district, died after the tanker was struck by the US forces.

Chaurasia had been working with a shipping company for the past seven months, reports said.

"We received the information about his death from his elder brother who works in Dubai," said a family member on Thursday.

"He used to call every day... we last spoke with him on June 8, during which he said that he would be returning to India very soon," Shivanand's distraught father, Ramji Chaurasia, said.

His wife fainted after receiving the news, reports said.

Shivanand is survived by his wife and two children, aged five and two years respectively.

The Palau-flagged tanker, the Settebello, had 24 Indian crew members in all. It came under US attack in the Gulf of Oman after it allegedly failed to follow the former's instructions and for carrying Iranian oil.

Initial reports said that 21 Indian sailors were rescued while three were missing. All three missing sailors were later confirmed dead in the attack.

Family of 23-year-old seafarer wants body back

Family members of seafarer Aditya Sharma (23), who was killed in a US strike on an oil tanker near the Strait of Hormuz, on Thursday urged the Himachal government and the Centre to bring his body back to his native Galore village in Hamirpur so that his last rites could be performed, reports PTI. Aditya was among the three crew members who were killed after the US military struck the Palau-flagged MT Settebello in the Gulf of Oman on June 10, accusing it of violating an American blockade by attempting to transport oil from Iran.

There were 24 Indian crewmen on board the vessel, of whom 21 were rescued.

Wait for replacement staff ends in tragedy for engineer

HYDERABAD, DHNS

Had Patnala Suresh left MT Settebello vessel immediately after he received the relieving letter without waiting for a replacement crew member, he would have been celebrating his 15th wedding anniversary at home in Visakhapatnam.

But fate had something else in store for this 44-year-old chief engineer on board the oil tanker off the coast of Oman. He was one of the three sailors killed in a US missile attack.

Suresh's family said his 15th wedding anniversary was on June 24, and he had been looking forward to celebrating it with wife and their two sons, one aged 13 and the other 10, after nearly five months at sea.

Patnala Suresh

"He had been requesting management to send his replacement, as his four-month duty had ended almost 15 days ago. Perhaps due to the war situation, they could not arrange one in time," said his wife Bhargavi.

"He was a chief engineer for the past 12 years, with the same company. This job was his passion. We never expected this to happen. My two sons and I have lost our sole provider. None of us are employed. We were entirely dependent on him," she added.

A source close to the family said Suresh had gone to inspect the ship's generator after it developed a technical snag. It was then that the missile attack took place.

In the week leading up to the attack, the vessel had remained in the same area, where poor network coverage made audio and video calls impossible and only text messages could be sent.

The Andhra Pradesh government has reached out to GA Srinivas, India's Ambassador to Oman, seeking assistance for the bereaved family.

The Ambassador assured full cooperation and stated that the Embassy's welfare team would take immediate action.

Nipah-infected Kerala man in critical condition

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A 43-year-old man at Kozhikode in Kerala, found to be infected with the Nipah virus, is reported to be in a critical condition.

As many as 77 persons, including 58 health workers, have so far been found to have come in contact with him.

The others in the contact list are 14 members of his family, and five friends and colleagues. Two people were in the high-risk group. So far, no one has shown any symptoms.

The infected person's condition was stable, said state health department sources.

Kerala Health Minister K Muraleedharan said that a team of doctors was monitoring the condition of the patient, who is under treatment at the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital.

Even as test results from the National Institute of Virology, Pune, were still awaited, all tests conducted in Kerala confirmed a Nipah infection. The route map of the patient is expected to be published soon.

While the source of infection has yet to be traced, it is suspected that the patient contracted it from bats while cleaning a godown that had remained closed for some time.

He was also said to have consumed fruits in recent days. He also underwent treatment at two other hospitals.

Nipah is being reported almost every year in Kerala since a major outbreak in 2018 that claimed 18 lives in Kozhikode.

Cyberfraud-accused Ganesh Kale deported from Thailand, held in Mumbai

MUMBAI, DHNS

The CBI has secured the deportation of alleged cyber fraud kingpin Ganesh Balaso Kale from Thailand and handed him over to the Maharashtra Police.

CBI said Kale was traced in Thailand following the issuance of an Interpol Red Corner Notice in May 2026. He was detained by Thai authorities in Bangkok on May 24 and subsequently deported after completion of legal formalities.

Investigators allege that Kale operated a sophisticated cyber fraud network that targeted victims through fake online part-time job offers. Victims were persuaded to make deposits and investments with promises of attractive returns before being defrauded.

The accused was taken into custody by the Cyber Cell of the Maharashtra Police upon arrival in India.

Officials described the operation as an example of effective international cooperation in combating cybercrime.

The Red Corner Notice against Kale was issued only in May this year, and he was traced, detained and deported within about 20 days. "The accused was wanted in a cybercrime fraud case in which victims were lured with offers of online part-time jobs and later cheated after being persuaded to make monetary investments," a CBI spokesperson said.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

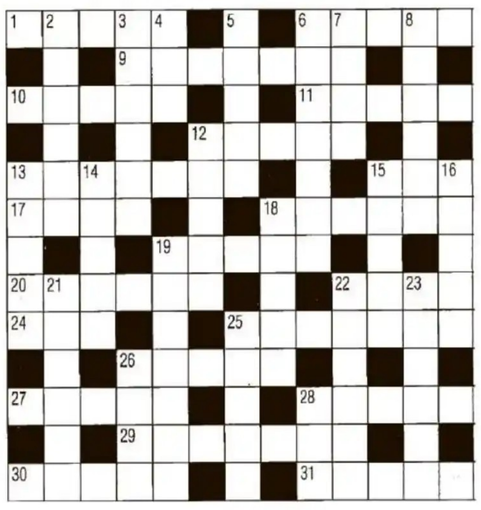
COULD YOU COME IN HERE AGAIN, MISS BUXLEY?
IN A MINUTE, SIR
WHAT IS IT, SIR?
I FORGOT. NEVER MIND
WELL, THAT ADDED ANOTHER THIRTY STEPS

Peanuts

Marvin

HERE. CLEAN YOUR KITCHEN FLOOR
SINCE WHEN DID IT GET TO BE MY KITCHEN FLOOR?
SINCE YOU JUST TRACKED MUD ON IT WITH YOUR GOLF SHOES

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12437



ACROSS
1 Ordeal (5)
6 Scorches (5)
9 Hand over (7)
10 Recreation (5)
11 Circular (5)
12 Stringed instruments (5)
13 Performance (7)
15 Delve (3)
17 Revise (4)
18 Within (6)
19 Initial (5)
20 Believe (6)
22 Sack (4)
24 Concealed (3)
25 Changes (7)
26 Tally (5)
27 Urbane (5)
28 Dossiers (5)
29 Type of number (7)
30 Talons (5)
31 Mock (5)

DOWN
2 Knocked (6)
3 Dexterous (6)
4 Allow (3)
5 Essential (5)
6 Snake (7)
7 Cupid (4)
8 Off (6)
12 Custom (5)
13 Attain (5)
14 Quoted (5)
15 Integer (5)
16 Units of heredity (5)
18 Edition (5)
19 Hand parts (7)
21 Ceremony (6)
22 Easy (6)
23 Niche (6)
25 Deserve (5)
26 Promise (4)
28 Obese (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Songstress? (5)
6 Criminals who may work as crews? (5)
9 Much ravioli can come to us in different forms (7)
10 Charged with enthusiasm to get a new job? (5)
11 Land of the laity? (5)
12 Bit of a clever dick, this composer? (5)
13 Lumbered with a back seat (7)
15 Contributor to the new lawn? (3)
17 Girl shared by Charlie and Leo? (4)
18 Sharp as a cameraman may need to look? (6)
19 Having lost his mother, he'd still have his partner (5)
20 Very cold, but not heavy hearted (6)
22 Of which the winner got a running start? (4)
24 Part of a knife edge that may itself be cut (3)
25 Hesitated to brandish the card of dismissal (7)
26 Smaller because younger? (5)
27 To kiss, I see, can be bad for you (5)
28 There are exceptions, we hear, to certain targets (5)
29 Keep going in at number eleven? (7)
30 Maybe sat at angles on a seat (5)
31 Worse than no reply (5)

DOWN
2 Creature that turns up in laminated wood (6)
3 Try too hard when due to perform? (6)
4 In 50AD, a mere youth (3)
5 Judged it possibly to be above average (5)
6 Serving as a pilot (7)
7 Monastic wine? (4)
8 Such a rush – frantically all go and then quiet (6)
12 One whose vegetarian ends are obvious? (5)
13 Be derisive as you eat (5)
14 Writer fed up with a piece of poetry (5)
15 With which to fight as boxers do around closing time? (5)
16 In Wales, madly defy the departmental head (5)
18 To date a piece of furniture right (2,3)
19 Unreasonably claimed to be curative (7)
21 A sound story (6)
22 Deny having a bit of fund in a tree, possibly (6)
23 Where to concentrate on recent developments (6)
25 The usefulness of being able to throw (5)
26 Machine used by learners on a motorway (4)
28 A little rabbit hair? (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12436

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Bipeds 7, Green tea 8, Spoken 10, L-ease 13, Drip 14, East 15, (two) Peas 16, Ten 17, O-pal 19, T-rod 21, Coalition 23, Poll 24, Go-L-d 26, Out 27, A-shy 29, E-RAs 32, Scot(-t) 33, Joint 34, Milieu 35, Turncoat 36, Who.-osh.
DOWN: 1, A-GI-le 2, Deg-AS 3, Once 4, BAs-RA 5, Prop. 6, Di-E-Ted 9, Pistil 11, Ear 12, St-O-ol 13, Delight 15, P-al 16, T-on 18, Pa-lace 20, Rode-O 21, Cot 22, To-y 23, Punish 25, MA-N 28, South 30, Ri-p-on 31, State 32, Silo 33, Junk.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Praise 7, Wardrobe 8, Abacus 10, Aries 13, Prey 14, Tiny 15, Bald 16, Lob 17, Rear 19, Lair 21, Nightmare 23, Doer 24, Name 26, Kid 27, Ewer 29, Nail 32, User 33, Badge 34, Hearse 35, Dissolve 36, Stress.
DOWN: 1, Sweat 2, Train 3, Iris 4, Pearl 5, Away 6, Stupor 9, Bedlam 11, Rib 12, Eyrie 13, Partner 15, Bah 16, Lie 18, Egress 20, Arena 21, Nod 22, Mar 23, Direct 25, Wig 28, Weeds 30, Addle 31, Lever 32, Urge 33, Boss.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6930 ◆

6				1				
	1	2			5			
		4	2		6			3
	7	3			9			1
	4						8	
1			3			9	2	
8			6		3	4		
			8			7	5	
				5				8

hard

3	1	2	4	6	7	5	9	8
6	7	5	1	8	9	3	2	4
4	8	9	5	3	2	6	7	1
7	2	1	8	4	6	9	3	5
8	3	4	2	9	5	7	1	6
9	5	6	7	1	3	8	4	2
5	9	7	6	2	1	4	8	3
1	4	3	9	5	8	2	6	7
2	6	8	3	7	4	1	5	9

SOLUTION TO 6929

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A1	S1	P3	S1	A1	D2	E1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
R1	L1	L1	E1	S1	S1	E1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 3
Y4	P3	O1	S1	C3	H4	S1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
F4	A1	I1	T1	F4	M3	S1		

PAR SCORE 225-235
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

H4	A1	S1	P3	I1	N1	G2	RACK 1	= 76
S1	H4	R1	E1	W4	S1		RACK 2	= 16
F4	I1	S1	T1	U1	L1	A1	RACK 3	= 80
H4	O1	R1	D2	E1	D2		RACK 4	= 11
							JUDD'S TOTAL	183

PAR SCORE 120-130

JUMBLE®

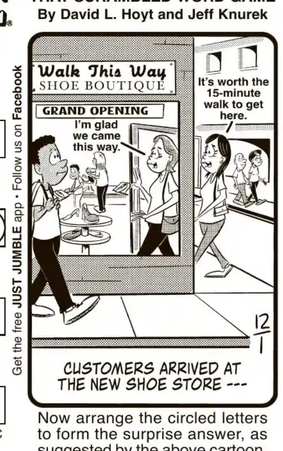
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LORTL

ONCTU

RIOFNM

CYROAN


THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
Walk This Way SHOE BOUTIQUE
GRAND OPENING
I'm glad we came this way.
It's worth the 15-minute walk to get here.
CUSTOMERS ARRIVED AT THE NEW SHOE STORE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Print your answer here: ( ) ( ) (Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: COVET FOAMY SHREWD ONWARD
Answer: The deer family member hung out with his smaller cousins until he — HAD TO "VA-MOOSE"

HITORI-3384

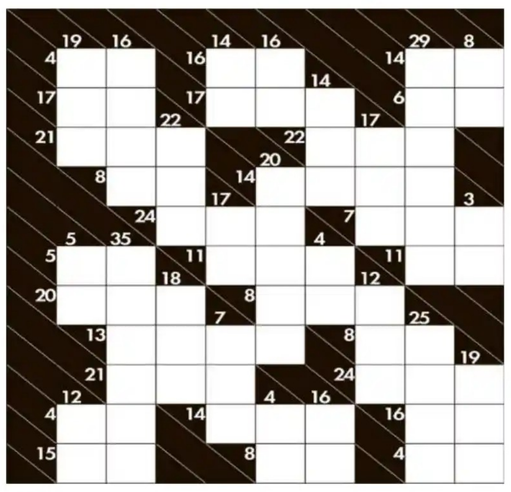
5	8	3	2	2	8	1	7
8	2	4	8	1	5	7	3
3	8	5	7	8	6	2	5
3	5	1	8	6	7	3	2
6	3	7	3	8	1	4	5
8	3	6	4	8	2	7	1
1	8	2	8	6	3	6	7
2	7	8	7	5	4	6	6

SOLUTION TO 3383

8	4	■	1	6	2	7	■
6	■	7	3	1	■	5	8
4	5	1	■	3	7	6	■
3	■	8	4	■	6	1	7
2	8	■	6	7	3	4	■
■	6	3	■	4	5	2	1
5	2	6	7	8	■	3	■
■	7	■	2	■	1	8	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3384



SOLUTION TO 3383

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3944

8								
	5		6	2		4		
		4				5	7	
3		5	1					2
					8			
			4				8	
					9	7	1	
					1			5
			5					

SOLUTION TO 3943

1	3	6	4	7	8	2	9	5
8	5	4	1	9	2	7	3	6
7	9	2	6	3	5	4	8	1
5	1	9	3	4	6	8	2	7
4	2	7	5	8	1	9	6	3
6	8	3	9	2	7	5	1	4
3	4	1	8	5	9	6	7	2
9	7	5	2	6	3	1	4	8
2	6	8	7	1	4	3	5	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump calls off latest threats to strike Iran, cites progress in negotiations

US president says discussions are on for 'final points' of agreement

DUBAI, AP/PTI

US President Donald Trump said Thursday he has called off new military strikes on Iran, hours after threatening to escalate the war by seizing control of the country's oil industry.

Trump said in a social media post that he made the move "based on the fact that discussions with the Islamic Republic of Iran have been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved".

The announcement came after two days of back-and-forth attacks between the US and Iran had threatened to push West Asia closer to the resumption of a full-scale war.

Just hours after Trump posted on social media that the US would hit Iran "VERY HARD TONIGHT" and take "total control" of Iran's oil and gas industries, the president was suggesting that progress has been made in talks to extend the fragile ceasefire.

He wrote that "discussions and final points have been, in both concept and great detail," approved by the United States, Israel and other regional allies. He did not offer details.

Trump on multiple occasions over the last several weeks has claimed that the warring parties have been on the cusp of a deal without anything coming to fruition.

Trump's most recent threats were the latest example of him voicing frustration with the stalled negotiations to end the war. He warned earlier in the week that Tehran would "pay the price" for taking too long to reach a deal.

Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, warned in a social media post Thursday that "wrong strategies and impulsive decisions" would wreak havoc on energy markets and "create an endless quagmire that you will be stuck in for years".

While the most recent strikes have increased tensions in the region, they have been more limited compared to the early weeks of the war and negotiations between the US and Iran are ongoing. Trump's threats on Thursday represented his latest verbal escalation in the Iran war. In April, he warned Iran that "a whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back again" if it didn't agree to his terms, before extending a ceasefire.

Iran's monthslong stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz has disrupted global energy supplies, driven up fuel prices and made food and other basics more expensive well beyond the region. Trump had threatened Thursday to seize Kharg Island, the heart of Iran's oil industry, through which 90% of its exports pass. Located on the other side of the Persian Gulf from US bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the island is important because Iran's coastline is mostly too shallow for tanker ships to dock. It was unclear how serious Trump was about his threat to seize it.

"My preference has always been to take Kharg Island," Trump said in an interview Thursday on Fox News. "I don't know that America has the stomach for it, to be honest."

American troops would be vulnerable on Kharg Island because of its proximity — about 33 km — to the Iranian mainland, from which missiles, drones and artillery could be fired. Trump indicated in the interview that he remains averse to sending US forces into Iran. "I don't want to have boots on the ground," Trump said. "But if I wanted to, we could put a small group of soldiers and take over the place."

Trump compared his threat to take over Iran's oil industry to how the US assumed control of Venezuela's oil sector after capturing then-president Nicolas Maduro in January.

Back-and-forth strikes rattled West Asia for the third time this week. The first involved attacks between Iran and Israel, followed by the two rounds of fire between the US and Iran, which targeted countries where US troops are based. The US military's Central Command said airstrikes ending early Thursday targeted Iran's military surveillance, communications and air defence sites.

An image released by Bahrain TV shows damage to buildings and vehicles in Bahrain, reportedly caused by debris from intercepted Iranian drones on Thursday. AFP

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"Based on the fact that discussions with the Islamic Republic of Iran have been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved, I have, as President of the United States of America, cancelled the scheduled strikes and bombings against Iran this evening.

US plans to deport Iranians to Central African Republic

DAKAR/NAIROBI, REUTERS: The Trump administration plans to deport a number of Iranians and other migrants to Central African Republic, a chronically unstable country racked by violence and poverty, two lawyers and an official briefed on the matter told Reuters.

The Iranians include two women who face potential torture and persecution if they are forced to go back to Iran, their lawyer, Emily Trostle, said. One is a Christian convert and the other is a pro-democracy activist, she added. The US State Department and the presidency in the Central African Republic — which recently reached a deal to accept so-called third-country deportees from the US — did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Both the women were detained upon arriving in the US in November 2024, Trostle said. They applied for asylum in the US and had secured a form of protection known as withholding of removal from a US immigration judge, Trostle said. The official briefed on the matter told Reuters the first flight to Central African Republic under the deal was expected to take about 20 people, also including Syrians and Afghans. The plane could leave as early as Thursday, the two lawyers said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Villagers take part in the annual "Perang Pandan" ritual which honours Indra, the Hindu god of war, in Tenganan Pegringsingan, on Indonesia's resort island of Bali on Thursday. AFP

Mother takes OpenAI to court over daughter's suicide

▶ A Canadian mother sued OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman in a US court on Thursday, alleging that ChatGPT encouraged her daughter to commit suicide, in the latest lawsuit to accuse the company of failing to address dangerous conversations between users and the company's chatbot, Reuters reports.

Kristie Carrier said in a lawsuit filed in San Francisco state court that her daughter Alice told ChatGPT about her suicidal thoughts more than a dozen times before her death, but OpenAI's safety systems never flagged the conversations for human review or terminated them. Instead, the lawsuit claims, the chatbot criticised Alice's partner and crisis hotlines, validated her suicidal thoughts and urged her to keep speaking with it, leading to her suicide last year at the age of 24.

"ChatGPT took on the persona of a confidant, a best friend, a therapist at times, even though it was not capable of safely and responsibly engaging in this way with my child," Carrier said in a statement. A spokesperson for OpenAI did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the allegations.

Bag made from T-Rex cells for sale

▶ A leather bag made from Tyrannosaurus rex cells will be auctioned off on Thursday by Paris auction house, Giquello, which estimates that the "one-of-a-kind" piece could sell for more than $500,000, AFP reports from Paris.

Unveiled in the spring in Amsterdam, the bag was created from traces of collagen from the femur of a T-Rex found in the US state of Montana 25 years ago.

"In recent years, we've developed techniques -- biotechnologies that allow us to instruct a cell culture to produce, so to speak, genuine T-Rex skin in the laboratory," Iacopo Briano, a palaeontology expert associated with the sale, recently told AFP.

People replace doors of boarded-up houses in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on Thursday. The city has been hit by anti-migrant riots for two nights. AFP

Pope visits 'dock of shame'

▶ Pope Leo XIV is visiting the Canary Islands on Thursday to draw attention to the plight of migrants who risk their lives every year trying to reach Europe, fulfilling a wish of Pope Francis to visit one of the epicentres of the European migration debate, AP/PTI reports from Barcelona.

Leo is spending the final two days of his weeklong trip to Spain in the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago closer to Africa than the Iberian Peninsula and a key point of entry for migrants smuggled from West Africa.

He is meeting with recently arrived migrants and representatives of the church and humanitarian organisations that care for them and work to integrate them into Spanish society.

No ban on Indian mangoes: Nepal

▶ In a U-turn, Nepal has said that it has not imposed a ban on the import of Indian mangoes and asserted that permission has been issued for the fruit's entry into the Nepalese market in response to demand and in accordance with certain regulations, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

The development came days after Nepalese officials said the government restricted the import of Indian mangoes that contained excessive pesticides and due to a lack of quarantine facilities in the border areas, mainly the Madhesh province.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Environment said that there are no restrictions on importing mangoes from India.

Mongolian officials show a Tarbosaurus dinosaur fossil to the press during a handover ceremony in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, on Thursday. AFP

UK defence secy quits over funding concerns

Healey says defence spending plans fail to meet military needs

LONDON, PTI

Britain's Defence Secretary John Healey resigned on Thursday, saying the government's proposed defence spending plans did not provide the armed forces with the resources they needed and could make the country "less safe".

Healey posted a resignation letter on X in which he said Prime Minister Keir Starmer had been "unable" and the Treasury "unwilling" to commit the resources needed to address security threats. "I am now left with no other option than to submit my resignation as your Defence Secretary," Healey wrote.

The Defence Investment Plan (DIP), which has yet to be published, is intended to outline future defence spending and investment priorities.

Healey said demands on defence had risen further due to conflict in West Asia, the UK's leadership of the multinational Strait of Hormuz military mission and Nato's Arctic Sentry mission, increased Russian activity towards the UK and Nato nations, and increased attacks in Ukraine.

He said the government had sought a Defence Investment Plan that would address immediate operational demands and set a clear path towards meeting what he described as a Nato commitment to spend 3.5% of GDP on defence by 2035. However, Healey said the funding settlement presented to him this week "falls well short of what is required for defence and the country at this dangerous time".

According to Healey, the proposed plan would raise defence spending to just 2.68% of GDP by 2030, compared with 2.6% expected next year.

Referring to a warning by Starmer that Russia could attack Nato as soon as 2030, Healey wrote: "Without a DIP that meets the moment in this way, I am being forced to make decisions that would reduce the readiness of our Forces and increase the risk to personnel on operations, and could make the country less safe."

He added that Starmer had been "unable, and the Treasury has been unwilling, to commit the resources that the nation needs to defend the country at this time of rising threats."

UNDER PRESSURE

- Healey accuses Prime Minister Keir Starmer and the Treasury of failing to provide enough funding for national security.
- Proposed Defence Investment Plan could leave Britain "less safe" because it does not give the armed forces the resources they need.
- Resignation adds to political pressure on Starmer, who is already facing challenges ahead of a by-election that could trigger leadership speculation.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer (left) listens as Britain's Defence Secretary John Healey speaks to apprentices in the defence industry in London. AFP FILE

El Nino is here and flashing danger signs: Scientists

WASHINGTON, AFP

The weather phenomenon El Nino has begun, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said on Thursday, and scientists expect it will intensify towards the end of the year, potentially reaching historic strength.

El Nino is a natural climate phenomenon that warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, rainfall patterns and erratic weather.

Scientists fear it will exacerbate the heat of a planet already warming due to the burning of fossil fuels, while intensifying weather extremes. In its latest advisory, NOAA scientists said "El Nino conditions developed over the past month" as shown by above-average sea surface temperatures in the Pacific.

"There is a 63% chance of a very strong El Nino during November–January that would rank among the largest El Nino events in the historical record going back to 1950," the advisory read.

Every El Nino is different, but major events often follow familiar patterns. This includes drought across parts of the Amazon, Indonesia and Australia, disrupted monsoons in India, and shifting rainfall throughout the tropics.

It typically takes place every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months.

El Nino tends to peak late in the year, but heat in the oceans releases more slowly into the atmosphere, pushing up global temperatures the following year. Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service on Wednesday said global forecasters were increasingly confident that a very strong El Nino warming weather pattern could form later this year. "The odds are strongly in favour of a moderate to strong, or probably strong to record-breaking, event at this stage," the service's director Carlo Buontempo told AFP.

Farmers plant rice in a paddy field in West Java, Indonesia, on June 3, as the government urged them to replant their crops in response to erratic weather linked to El Nino. REUTERS FILE

Israel to allocate $338 million for West Bank settlement

JERUSALEM, REUTERS: Israel is expected to approve on Thursday the allocation of 1 billion shekels ($337.8 million) to build new settlements and connect them to infrastructure in the occupied West Bank, Israeli anti-settlement group Peace Now said.

The plan is being promoted by Israel's far-right finance minister Bezalel Smotrich, a proponent of Israeli settlement expansion who has said he wants to bury the idea of Palestinian statehood.

According to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet schedule, ministers are expected to discuss the establishment of temporary sites that have already been approved in the West Bank. The schedule did not say whether the ministers would approve new funding. Netanyahu's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

About 700,000 Israeli settlers live among 2.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

22 Pak military personnel killed in PoK helicopter crash: Report

ISLAMABAD, PTI: At least 22 Army personnel, including three officers, were killed when an Mi-17 helicopter of Pakistan Army Aviation crashed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, a media report said on Thursday.

The helicopter crashed "during take-off due to a technical fault" near Muzaffarabad in PoK on Wednesday, killing all personnel on board, the army said in a brief statement, without specifying the number of casualties.

Citing a security official, BBC Urdu, however, reported that 22 personnel were killed in the crash, including one colonel and two majors.

The funeral prayers of the deceased were held on Thursday before their bodies were sent to their respective areas for burial.

However, there is still no official word about the death toll or the identities of those killed in the crash.

Pakistan rejects India's PoK remarks

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Pakistan on Thursday criticised India's recent remarks on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, asserting that it was addressing issues related to the protests in the region within a democratic and constitutional framework.

On Tuesday, India criticised Pakistan for its "brutality" against people in PoK and called on the international community to hold that country accountable for its "abuses".

India's reaction came as over 20 people were reportedly killed in police action against protesters in several parts of PoK.

Responding to questions during his weekly media briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi on Thursday said Pakistan rejected India's statements "in their entirety".

He also rejected any effort to compare the political situation on the two sides of the Line of Control (LoC).

The situation in PoK is being addressed "within a democratic and constitutional framework," he said. "Any attempt to conflate the two is misleading and does not withstand objective scrutiny."

Reacting to a statement made by an Indian minister, Andrabi warned that any attempt by India to block water would be treated as "an act of war".

"Pakistan will take all necessary measures to safeguard its economy and its vital national interests and the lives of its 250 million people," he said.

He said that Pakistan firmly rejected any notion that water can be treated as a political tool, instrument of coercion or a weapon. "Such actions would threaten not just regional peace and security in South Asia and beyond...," he stated.

On a question regarding the latest yearbook published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), he said Pakistan noted the report's assessment of India's nuclear capabilities, including the reported deployment of nuclear warheads.

Indian-American held in $100 mn bank fraud case

WASHINGTON, PTI: A 44-year-old Indian-American man was arrested in California for allegedly defrauding a bank of nearly $100 million by manipulating title records of insurance policies.

Mahender Makhijani has been living in the US with a Green Card and faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison if convicted.

"Mahender Makhijani, a lawful permanent resident from India living in Corona del Mar, was arrested this (Wednesday) morning on a federal criminal complaint charging him with defrauding a bank out of nearly $100 million," Bilal Essayli, First Assistant US Attorney for the Central District of California, said. "As alleged, Makhijani falsified title insurance records, concealed true lien positions, and used a network of shell companies to mislead a federally insured bank out of nearly $100 million," said Darren Lian, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Angeles Field Office.

Biz Bytes

Deloitte, SAP launch AI-led delivery centre

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deloitte India has launched its dedicated SAP Delivery Centre in Bengaluru. It is a strategic AI-led innovation and delivery hub designed to support SAP's transformation priorities and help enterprises accelerate cloud adoption, intelligent automation and AI-powered business transformation. The centre will be supported by over 1,000 professionals across India and is expected to add 300-500 specialised AI professionals over 12-24 months.

Rupee slumps 60p to close at 95.85 against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee plunged 60 paise to settle at 95.85 against the US dollar on Thursday amid heightened tensions in West Asia and a stronger greenback. "Going ahead, crude oil movement will remain the key driver for the currency, along with capital flows and global risk sentiment," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities. The dollar index was trading at 100.07, up 0.13%.

State approves tech initiatives of Rs 27.19 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Government has approved four initiatives worth Rs 27.19 crore to support startups, industry-academia partnerships, biotechnology infrastructure, and Deep-Tech research.

A K-Combinator Startup Accelerator in Mangaluru received Rs 9.26 crore over five years to support startups through mentorship, funding access and market linkages.

The government also approved the Super 100 Industry-Academia Adoption Programme with an outlay of Rs 7.47 crore over three years to connect 100 industries with 100 higher education institutions.

Further, Rs 3.66 crore was sanctioned for developing an Advanced Surgical Assistive Robot for neurosurgical applications, while Rs 6.80 crore was allocated for expanding genome editing infrastructure in Bengaluru.

"These approvals reflect Karnataka's commitment to investing across the full innovation spectrum," IT & BT Minister Priyank Kharge said.

Govt extends excise duty waiver to higher ethanol blends

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government has exempted higher ethanol-blended petrol grades from central excise duty to prevent double taxation on fuel blending activities, according to official notifications.

The CBIC issued notifications exempting ethanol blended petrol (EBP) grades E22, E25, E27 and E30 - from applicable central excise duties, subject to excise duty having already been paid on petrol and GST having been paid on the ethanol used for blending.

The CBIC has exempted ethanol blended petrol (EBP) grades E22, E25, E27 and E30, containing 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% ethanol, respectively, from central excise duty, provided excise duty has already been paid on petrol and GST has been paid on the ethanol used for blending.

India's growth rate to weaken at 6.6% in FY27, says BMI

Cites slower investments, consumption as reasons

NEW DELHI, PTI

India's GDP is likely to grow at 6.6% in the current fiscal as compared to 7.7% in FY26, on weaker investments, consumption growth and trade shocks from the West Asia crisis, BMI, a Fitch group company, said.

According to government data released last week, GDP growth in FY26 accelerated to 7.7% from 7.1% in FY25, supported by healthy consumption and robust investment activity.

BMI expects the rupee to trade in the range of 95.1 against the US dollar this calendar year. It said the rupee's depreciation from its 87 average level in 2025 will support export competitiveness, offsetting the drag on GDP from the Iran conflict's terms-of-trade shock.

The GST reforms implemented in September 2025 caused a consumption boom in December quarter FY26. Thereafter, consumption growth fell by 1.1% points to 7.1% YoY in March quarter FY26.

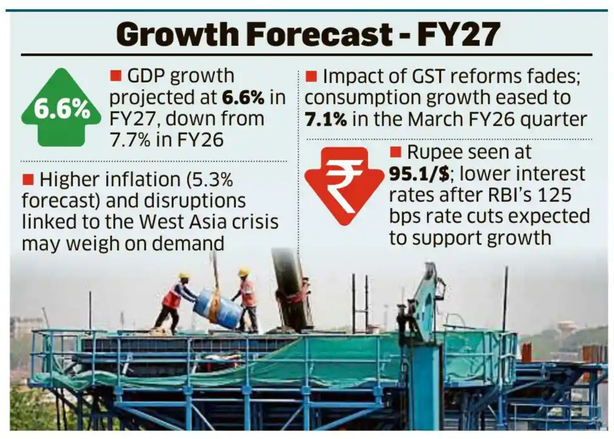
"Looking ahead, we continue to expect 6.6% GDP growth in FY2026/27. Our projection represents a visible slowdown from FY2025-26's 7.7% pace but exceeds India's average 6.1% per annum growth rate over the last decade," it said.

BMI's projection is in line with RBI's 6.6% growth estimates for FY27.

BMI attributed the slow growth rate this fiscal to three factors. First, the impact of last year's GST reforms on domestic consumption is likely to wane. Also, higher price inflation which BMI expects to hit 5.3% in FY27 will hinder consumption growth amid disruption at Strait of Hormuz. Thirdly, BMI expects investment growth to slow during the fiscal year.

"This slowdown is not due to our new forecast of accumulative 50 basis points (bps) rate hike by the RBI in FY2026/27, since the effect on growth will primarily be felt during FY2027/28," it added.

BMI said the currently low level of short-term interest rates following the RBI's 125 bps rate cut during 2025 will support the economy through the ongoing energy crisis.


Growth Forecast - FY27
6.6%
GDP growth projected at 6.6% in FY27, down from 7.7% in FY26
Impact of GST reforms fades; consumption growth eased to 7.1% in the March FY26 quarter
Higher inflation (5.3% forecast) and disruptions linked to the West Asia crisis may weigh on demand
Rupee seen at 95.1/$; lower interest rates after RBI's 125 bps rate cuts expected to support growth

Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz near the beach at Bandar Abbas in Iran on Thursday. REUTERS

World Bank cuts global growth outlook to 2.5%

Warns of drop to 1.3% if war fallout spreads to mkts

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The World Bank on Thursday cut its global growth forecast for 2026 to 2.5% due to the West Asia war, saying growth could slow to just 1.3% if energy supply disruptions prove more severe and come with substantial stress in financial markets.

Global growth reached 2.9% in 2025, the bank said in its semi-annual Global Economic Prospects, up 0.2 percentage point from its January estimate. Its 2026 forecast is down 0.1 percentage point from January, the lowest seen since the pandemic.

The bank lowered forecasts for two-thirds of countries as a result of the war, with the biggest cuts affecting the UAE, Iraq and others in West Asia whose energy exports have been hit hard by the conflict.

The World Bank's stark outlook comes as the war launched by US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 drags into a fourth month. It has sent energy prices up sharply due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, renewed inflationary pressures worldwide and fueled expectations of tighter monetary policy across many countries. Fertiliser prices are also up sharply, raising concerns about a major food supply crisis. Oil prices closed nearly $2 higher on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump said the US would attack Iran "very hard" if no peace deal was finalised, following one of the most significant exchanges of fire since an April ceasefire.

The World Bank said its baseline forecast assumed an average Brent crude oil price of $94 for the year, up 36% from 2025, and that the worst disruptions to energy supplies would abate by the end of July, with global headline inflation seen at 4%.

'India growing fastest'

Meanwhile, India will remain the world's fastest-growing major economy, expanding at 6.6% in FY2026-27, a sharp moderation from 7.7% previous year, the World Bank said.

"Growth in India is projected to moderate to 6.6% in FY2026-27 (April 2026 to March 2027), reflecting a slowdown in private demand growth owing to higher energy prices and other input costs," the World Bank said in its report on Global Economic Prospects.

Reduction in GST rates should support consumer demand, the report said, adding that the economy is expected to rebound to 7.2% growth in FY2027-28.

EY GDS launches ey.ai Centre for Reimagination

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

EY Global Delivery Services (GDS), which is a technology-focused delivery network, on Thursday launched the ey.ai Centre for Reimagination (CFR), a client experience centre, in Bengaluru. The 40,000-sq ft centre will help firms experience emerging technologies that will reshape industries. It is about the future-led AI transformation across industries including retail, life sciences, energy and banking, among others. Though the company did not disclose the cost, it said the centre is built into its overall investment. Previously, it had announced a $1.4 billion investment in AI that also includes upskilling people and platforms.

"AI is fundamentally reshaping how organisations think, make decisions and create value. The centre is where strategy meets execution; a space where leaders can test ideas responsibly and define a clear path to scale. By piloting AI in controlled environments, we are helping leaders reimagine their organisations with confidence," Janet Truncale, EY Global Chair and CEO, said.

The centre brings together AI, emerging technologies, sector capabilities and human-centred design to help CXOs envision and act on future business possibilities.

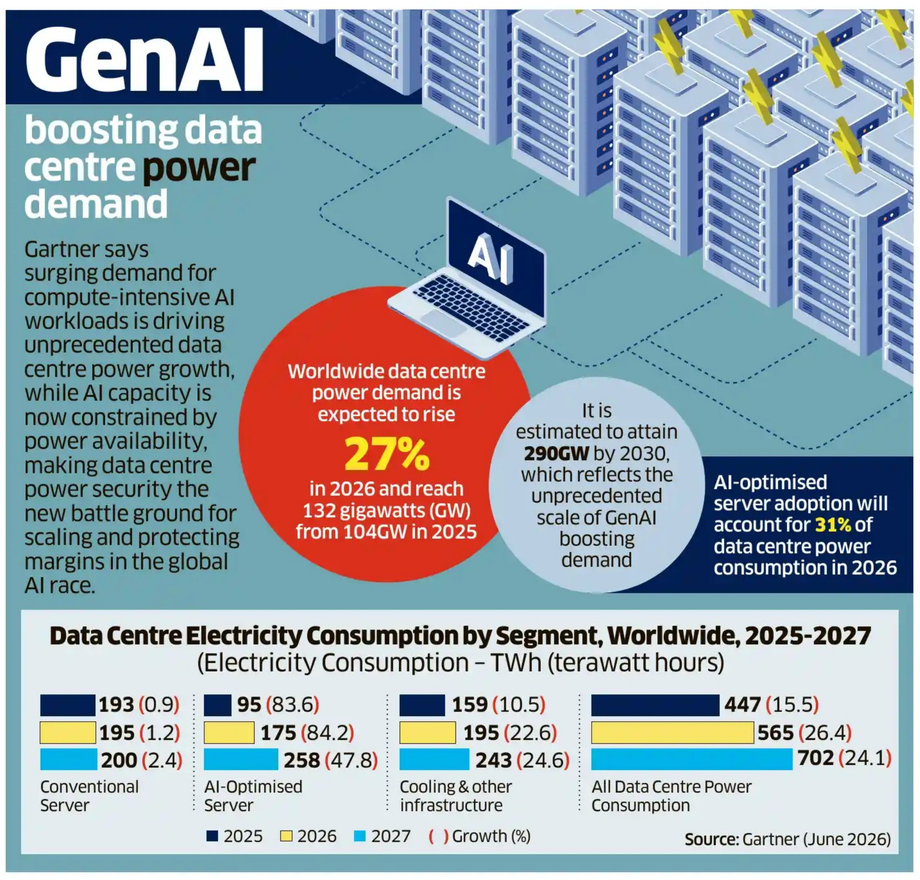
"We have shown different potential scenarios of how AI could play out in the future," Ajay Anand, Global Vice-Chair, EY Global Delivery Services, said, adding that the next wave of growth will be shaped by AI.

He added that AI is no longer a future ambition; it's a present-day business imperative. Yet, many organisations are still grappling with what transformation truly looks like at scale. The centre is designed to bridge that gap, helping leaders move from intent to execution and translate AI ambition into real business impact.

Powered by agentic AI, robotics, digital twins, and conversational AI, it allows organisations to simulate scenarios, visualise business outcomes and accelerate execution. In total, the company has over 91,000 employees, and in India alone, it employs about 74,000. In Bengaluru, the company has about 23,000 employees. GDS this fiscal (July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026) hired 25,000 overall and about 80% of them in India alone.

The company said it will continue to scale talent in line with client needs and innovation priorities. "We plan to deploy 100,000 AI agents by 2028, so the intention of this is much more beyond experimentation," Anand added. The centre will also create highly skilled roles that combine AI engineering with experience design and sector transformation. Skills include AI engineering, immersive experience design, digital twins/simulation, human-centred design and sector transformation.

The new ey.ai Centre for Reimagination in Bengaluru.


GenAI
boosting data centre power demand
Gartner says surging demand for compute-intensive AI workloads is driving unprecedented data centre power growth, while AI capacity is now constrained by power availability, making data centre power security the new battle ground for scaling and protecting margins in the global AI race.
AI
Worldwide data centre power demand is expected to rise 27% in 2026 and reach 132 gigawatts (GW) from 104GW in 2025
It is estimated to attain 290GW by 2030, which reflects the unprecedented scale of GenAI boosting demand
AI-optimised server adoption will account for 31% of data centre power consumption in 2026
Data Centre Electricity Consumption by Segment, Worldwide, 2025-2027
(Electricity Consumption – TWh (terawatt hours)
Conventional Server: 193 (0.9) 195 (1.2) 200 (2.4)
AI-Optimised Server: 95 (83.6) 175 (84.2) 258 (47.8)
Cooling & other infrastructure: 159 (10.5) 195 (22.6) 243 (24.6)
All Data Centre Power Consumption: 447 (15.5) 565 (26.4) 702 (24.1)
2025 2026 2027 ( ) Growth (%)
Source: Gartner (June 2026)

Prolonged West Asia war may impact delivery of over 5 lakh homes

BENGALURU, DHNS

Disruption in supply chains and commodity markets due to the ongoing war in West Asia has hit residential real estate. A report stated that an estimated 540,000 houses across Tier-1 cities are facing delays.

A prolonged geopolitical conflict will inevitably impact project economics through higher energy prices, increased logistics costs, and inflation in key construction materials such as steel, aluminium, copper, electrical equipment, and building systems, according to a report by realty consultancy Anarock.

However, end-user-driven housing demand remains resilient, and project financing is also better than in previous cycles. "Latest Anarock Research data reveals that a record 540,000 housing units are scheduled for completion across the top-7 cities in 2026—the highest in the last decade. Of the total scheduled deliveries, the western markets of MMR and Pune collectively

account for 57% of homes due for completion this year," said Prashant Thakur, Executive Director and Head—Research, Anarock Group.

Historically, ambitious housing supply pipelines have often been vulnerable to external shocks like these, he said. "For instance, during the pandemic year, 4.66 lakh homes were scheduled for completion across the top-7 cities. However, only about 2.14 lakh units, or 46% of the planned pipeline, were ultimately delivered, as construction came to a halt due to lockdowns, labour migration, and supply-chain disruptions," Thakur added.

In MMR, approximately 2.07 lakh units are scheduled for delivery over the year, while Pune expects one lakh units to be delivered in 2026. In the South, Bengaluru (69,000), Hyderabad (63,700) and Chennai (35,600) collectively have 1.68 lakh units lined up for delivery this year. North India's realty powerhouse NCR has just 39,000 units scheduled for completion, and in the East, Kolkata has just 22,500 units scheduled for completion this year.

"Cities with the largest completion pipelines—specifically MMR, Pune and Bengaluru—are particularly sensitive to sustained input cost inflation, as developers must maintain delivery schedules and simultaneously manage margin pressures," Thakur added.

Anarock Research indicates that between 2017 and 2025, nearly 30.5 lakh housing units have been delivered across India's top 7 cities.

Thakur said the sheer scale of homes slated for delivery this year reflects the strong launch and sales momentum witnessed after the pandemic.

Opendoor shuts India ops overnight over 'AI shift'

ANAMIKA PATHAK
BENGALURU, DHNS

US real estate technology company Opendoor has laid off its entire India team of 250 employees in an AI-driven overhaul. Kaz Nejatian, CEO of Opendoor Networks, took to his official X account and shared a note, mentioning that the company is bidding goodbye to employees in India after winding down operations in the country.

"Today we began to say goodbye to our colleagues in India as we wind down our India operations. Our customers are in America, and that's where our operational work belongs," he wrote in the post, while sharing a picture of the note.

In the note, the reason mentioned for layoffs is that their customers are in the US, and that the operational work they do for them is best done close to them.

"For years, Opendoor built a large team in India to handle manual workflows across fragmented systems. As we have unified the systems and have hired small AI-native customer-facing teams throughout the US, we need all this operational work to be done in person and close to our customers," it read.

Kaz Nejatian

He further added that Opendoor 2.0 will be a much smaller company by headcount, but a much larger company by impact.

"For the people affected, this is a significant and difficult change and we are providing transition packages including severance, outplacement services, and other resources," he added.

Additionally, Nejatian added a comment for companies hiring in India and wrote, "If you're hiring and have a presence in India, these are excellent people. Consider this my reference letter and hire them."

IN HIGHER ORBIT

SpaceX IPO debuts today, fuelling talk of a trillion-dollar Musk fortune

NEW YORK, AP

Elon Musk's rocket company SpaceX will make its debut on Wall Street on Friday and both institutional and retail investors are expected to gobble up the 555.6 million shares going up for sale at $135 apiece. CEO Musk, already the world's richest man, could become its first trillionaire.

In a video conference on Musk's social media platform X, he told JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon that people have suggested for the last 10 years that he take SpaceX public. He's doing it now because the company plans to put 100,000 next-generation Starlink satellites into orbit. Deploying AI data centres in space is a "massive new growth base and you need capital for that," he said.

SpaceX is likely to become the biggest IPO ever, with proceeds of around $75 billion. Musk could become the world's first trillionaire. SpaceX hopes to become the first company to send people to Mars. In fact, part of Musk's future compensation depends on SpaceX eventually establishing a colony of at least 1 million people on the red planet.

Going public provides access to the capital that SpaceX needs. But it also exposes it to more scrutiny from shareholders and more regulatory oversight. That includes filing quarterly financial reports, which critics say incentivises short-term thinking over longer-term planning and creates unnecessary costs for a company. Securities regulators are currently soliciting public comment on a proposal to require public companies to file the financial reports only twice every year.

SpaceX depends a lot on Musk

The company credits Musk with being the "driving force" behind its growth, innovation and success. But what happens if Musk is no longer in the picture? SpaceX warns that the loss of Musk could disrupt its ability to execute its strategy as well as hurt its "reputation and relationships with customers, partners and other stakeholders". The company also warns that finding a replacement with the same skills and experience as Musk would be time-consuming, if not nearly impossible. As Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives wrote on Wednesday, "At the end of the day Musk is SpaceX and SpaceX is Musk."

SpaceX may become the biggest IPO ever, with proceeds of around $75 billion. CEO Elon Musk could become the world's first trillionaire. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

The CEO will hold the majority of a special class of shares, giving him control over decisions related to company strategy, finances and personnel. On the latter, because of his ownership of most of these Class B shares, the only person who can fire Musk as CEO ... is Musk.

Analysts say that by pioneering reusable rockets, SpaceX has established a clear lead on competitors such as Blue Origin, led by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. The Starlink satellite business competes with, among others, AST SpaceMobile – which is relying on a SpaceX rocket to send its latest generation of satellites into orbit next week.

The prospectus filed last week says SpaceX's biggest potential market is the sale of business-oriented artificial intelligence products to transform how people get work done. It's an opportunity SpaceX predicts would be worth $22.7 trillion if it could somehow dominate rivals like Anthropic, OpenAI and Microsoft in a highly competitive industry. But the prospectus shows no clear path to profitability for the xAI business, which merged with SpaceX earlier this year.

Currently in the test phase, the gigantic reusable rocket Starship is key to SpaceX realising Musk's ambitions. Much of the commercial space business hinges on SpaceX developing Starship's capability to be fully reusable and hearty enough for a quick turnaround between flights.

If the SpaceX IPO is as successful, the stock could quickly join the Nasdaq 100.

CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Open event mirrors game's transition

India, England, SA to challenge Australia's hegemony

BIRMINGHAM, PTI

Bigger and more competitive than ever, the ICC T20 Women's World Cup begins here on Friday with the ever-improving India, England and South Africa expected to challenge Australia's traditional dominance in the tournament.

The Aussies, who have won six of the last nine tournaments, will be eager to displace reigning champions New Zealand for a seventh title, but that is no longer a yawn-inducing formality.

The Kiwis themselves are a formidable unit, and then there are India, who landed their maiden global title last year in the 50-over World Cup.

England, strong as ever in home conditions, and South Africa, finalists in the last three ICC events, would be no push-overs either.

In that context, this iteration of the showpiece, beginning with a match here between England and Sri Lanka, is the most open yet in its existence, and it is also the first World Cup in the UK since the first edition in 2009.

The event is also the biggest in terms of the number of participants - 12 - with the addition of Ireland and Netherlands to the mix from 2024.

That expansion itself is a sign of the women's game getting a stronger foothold across nations, but even more satisfying is the development of a level-playing field and the emergence of some raw but exciting talent.

While India hope Smriti Mandhana (left) will regain her form to lead the team's batting charge, Australia will hope Ashleigh Gardner will set aside the disappointment of losing out on captaincy at the T20 World Cup beginning today.PTI/AFP

It starts with England's Alice Capsey, Tilly Corteen-Coleman and Freya Kemp while their opponents on Friday, Sri Lanka, field the likes of Vishmi Gunarathne, Imesha Dulani, Kavisha Dilhari and Kawya Kavindi.

New Zealand skipper Amelia Kerr, one of the youngest leaders in the international circuit at 25, is a key player for her side. She is also a heart-touching story of resilience after surviving depression and suicidal thoughts during the 2020-21 season.

Strong contenders India come with promising N Sree Charani, Yastika Bhatia and Nandani Sharma in their ranks.

The Aussies are still banking on their veterans to reclaim the title, but they also have two exceptional young stars in their ranks -- batter Georgia Voll and left-arm seamer Lucy Hamilton.

The Proteas, led by the redoubtable Laura Wolvaardt, have Kayla Reyneke and Annerie Dercksen leading the march of Next-Gen players, despite bringing back experienced pacer Shabnim Ismail and Dan van Niekerk from retirement.

The outings of these relatively fresh names will be watched keenly as they are tasked with taking the exploits of a glorious set of players, who are on the last leg of their illustrious careers.

Despite not defending an ICC title for the first time since 2017, Australia still have the aura of the past, the Antipodeans are still the team to beat.

The selection of Sophie Molineux as captain might not have elicited a unanimous reaction from players, particularly from Gardner, but they need to push the past behind and work together for a greater goal.

Rise of India

The biggest impediment in their way will be India, now a stronger and more consistent white ball unit. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will be keen to emulate Australia in becoming the second side to hold the 50-over and T20 World Cups at the same time.

Pacers like Renuka Singh, Kranti Goud and seasoned all-rounders such as Deepti Sharma along with a very strong batting line-up give them a realistic shot at having another world title in just over seven months.

The ODI World Cup triumph marshalled by almost the same squad might have also eased the anxiety in the Indian camp.

Today's match: England vs Sri Lanka (Birmingham).

Afghanistan A stun India A via DLS method

DAMBULLA, PTI: Afghanistan A caused a major upset by eking out a four-run win over star-studded India A via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in a rain-marred tri-nation series match here on Thursday.

Batting first, India A posted a daunting 349/9 in a rain-curtailed 49 overs innings, with Prabhsimran Singh leading the charge with a blazing 84 off 69 balls, supported by half-centuries from captain Tilak Varma (66) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (66). Due to persistent rain intervals, Afghanistan A's target was revised to 294 runs from 38 overs applying the DLS method.

Following an explosive start by captain Imran (75 not out off 70 balls) and Hassan Eisakhil (34 off 29 balls), Afghanistan kept themselves in the hunt. Bahir Shah (51 off 52 balls), then, joined Imran and the duo took them to 177/2 in 25.5 overs when another spell of rain stopped play.

At that stage of the game, Afghanistan were found to be four runs ahead of the par score requirement, which sealed their victory.

Earlier, skipper Tilak, vice-captain Ruturaj and opener Prabhsimran made well-timed fifties as India A posted a massive total.

Brief scores: India A: 349/9 in 49 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 84, Ruturaj Gaikwad 66, Tilak Varma 66, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 44; Abdollah Ahmadzai 5-68, Farmanullah Safi 3-85) lt to Afghanistan A: 177/2 in 25.5 overs (Imran Mir 75 n.o., Bashir Shah 51 n.o.). **Result:** Afg A won by 4 runs (DLS Method). **PoM:** Imran Mir.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)
No:BESCOM/GM(A&HR)/BC-50/2524/2024-25 Date: 11.06.2026

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance to KPTCL Employment Notification dated 14.10.2024, the Cut-Off Marks along with the **Final Selection Lists** of Endurance Test qualified candidates selected on merit on the basis of marks secured in the SSLC/10th Standard for the post of **Junior Powerman (NKK/KK)** in **BESCOM** is published in website **https://bescom.karnataka.gov.in.**

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
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General Manager (Admin. & HR)
Corporate Office, BESCOM,
Belaku Bhavn, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/TR(P)/BRC/EE(O)/AEE-2/2026-27/449-50 Date: 10.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No : **KPTCL/2026-27/ RC HK-01** For providing Manpower services of 2 No's. of House Keeping to the O/o SEE, Transmission (Projects), Rural circle, Bengaluru and to the O/o Executive Engineer (Ele) Projects Division, KPTCL, Kolar.
The Detailed Notification regarding the tenders can be got by logging on or after **12.06.2026** to **www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link 'E-Procurement KPTCL' or to **https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele.), Transmission (Project), Rural Circle, KPTCL Pantharapalya, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka
Department of Health and Family Welfare Services
Office of The Chief Medical Officer, Bhadravathi
Ph: Email: cmobdvt@gmail.com
Ph.9986570474 & 7349760984 & 9964306757 & 7353603442
No. : GHB/Drug Supply Tender/01/2026-27 Date : 09.06.2026

Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from eligible firms/organizations for the supply of medicines and equipment to Taluku General Hospital, Bhadravathi, for the year 2026-27, under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000, through the Two-Cover System. For tender documents, EMD details, tender terms and conditions, and further information, please visit the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date for submission of tenders: 29.06.2026 at 11.00 AM.
Estimated value of the tender: Rs. 80.00 lakhs (Rupees Eighty Lakhs only).

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer,
Taluku General Hospital Bhadravathi
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/51/06/352

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division,
Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560 092.
No. BNCC/EE/SD/TEND/06/2026-27 Dated: 11.06.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Three Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC invites tender from eligible registered agencies in any state Govt. Organization for providing services mentioned in the Table below.

Sl. No.	Description
1.	Hiring, Operation and Maintenance of 10 Nos Latest Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines on Per Kilometer basis for 07 Years for Sweeping HDC, Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads with in Bengaluru North City Corporation. (Call-4). **EMD Amount in Rs. Total EMD Amount Rs.70.00 Lakhs in which Rs.5,00,000/- (Five Lakhs) through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.65,00,000/- (Sixty Five Lakhs) by e-Bank Guarantee/ Bank Guarantee /FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank valid for 180 Days from date of opening of bid.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Last date & time for Queries (only through online) : **22.06.2026 upto 4.00 PM. (2)** Date and time of per-bid meeting **: 22.06.2026 upto 3.00 PM. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **03.07.2026 upto 4:00 PM. (4)** Opening of Pre-Qualification : **On 04.07.2026 at 4:30 PM if possible next working day. (5)** Opening of Technical Bid : **On 06.07.2026 at 4:30 PM if possible (6)** Opening of Financial bid : After Technical Bid Approval.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
"ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಆರ್.ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ & ಡಾ.ಬಾಬು ಜಗಜೀವನ ರಾಮ್ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನ" ರಂಗಮಂದಿರ
ಹಿಂದುಗಡೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು-584101 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **dsworchr315@gmail.com & ddswdraichur@gmail.com** ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08532 231091

ಸಂ:ಉನಿ/ಸಕಇರಾ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಡಿ-ಗ್ರೂಪ್/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್-1/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:10-06-2026

:: ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ Call-2 ::

ವಿಷಯ:-2026-27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಕಛೇರಿ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಸಿ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಪರೇಟರ್‌ಗಳು/ವಾಹನಾ ಚಾಲಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ, ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು ಮತ್ತು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ತುಂಬಲು ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ (KTPP) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಇವರಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂಗೀಕೃತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

1) **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ & ದಿನಾಂಕ:** ಸಂ:ಉನಿ/ಸಕಇರಾ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಡಿ-ಗ್ರೂಪ್/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್-1/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:10-06-2026 2) **ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ.9,48,51,372/-ಗಳು 3) **ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ.14,22,771/- 4) **e-portal ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ:** 10-06-2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿ: 25-06-2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ. 5) **ಪೂರ್ವಬಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಸಮಯ & ಸ್ಥಳ:** 16-06-2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು (ಸ್ಥಳ & ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ) 6) **e-portal ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:**29-06-2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆ (ಸ್ಥಳ & ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ) 7) **ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳ:** 04-07-2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಯಚೂರು (ಸ್ಥಳ & ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ) **8) e-portal ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:** 07-07-2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆ (ಸ್ಥಳ & ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ) 9) **ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು- 08532-231091 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ dsworchr315@gmail.com & ddswdraichur@gmail.com

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು
DIP/RCR/118KSMCA/120/2026-27

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka Regd. Autonomous & NABH Accredited Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560069. Ph. / Fax: 080 22977278
E-mail: director@jayadevacardiology.com Website: www.jayadevacardiology.com
Ref. No.: SJICR/EST(1)/25/2026-27 DATE: 11.06.2026

CORRIGENDUM

In the Notification No. SJICR/EST(1)/25/2026-27, Dated: 09.06.2026 published on 10.06.2026 the Kalaburagi Branch posts may be read as 75% of Posts for 371J and other 25% posts for non 371J. The non 371J posts are in the cadre of Assistant Professor of Cardiology-IIA, Associate Professor of C.T Surgery - SC & Assistant Professor of Anesthesia - GM.

Sd/-, Director
DIPR/CP/LC/1115/2026-27

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:06:2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:10-06-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ. -11 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025-26ನೇ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ ಶೇ. 24.10ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ - 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ. (3ನೇ ಕರೆ). - 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 14 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91-8046010000 +91-8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. **ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.1 ರಿಂದ 10, 12, 13, 14ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ : (1)** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-06-2026 **(2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ: 29-06-2026 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 **(3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29-06-2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.30 **(4)** ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30-06-2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.11ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : (1) ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15-06-2026 **(2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 22-06-2026 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 **(3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 22-06-2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 **(4)** ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 23-06-2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/144/
ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27
ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064
web site: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E - TENDER NOTICE No:RWF/M/OT/ MMS/2026-27/23 Dated: 05/06/2026
E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following works through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works). **Sl.No.:** 1. **Tender No.:** RWF/M/OT/MMS/2026-27/23 Dated: 05/06/2026. **Name of the work:** Annual Shutdown Works for the year 2026 (Group - 2) of Dust collectors of Steel Melting Shop, Moulding Room and Wheel Final Processing Shop and other works. **Estimated Cost in Rs.:** 25,49,877.00. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 51,000.00. **Date &Time of Closing of Tenders:** 27/06/2026 at 10.30 Hrs.

E - TENDER NOTICE No:RWF/M/OT/ MMS/2026-27/29 Dated: 09/06/2026
Sl.No.: 1 **Tender No.:** RWF/M/OT/MMS/2026-27/29 Dated: 09/06/2026. **Name of the work:** Annual Maintenance shut-down works 2026 - (Group-1) of EOT cranes and EAF's of Steel Melting Shop. **Estimated Cost in Rs.:** 44,10,999.00. **Earnest Money Deposit: in Rs.:** 88,200.00. **Date &Time of Closing of Tenders:** 01/07/2026 at 10.30 Hrs.
DY. CME/Melting

E - TENDER NOTICE No:RWF/M/OT/ MWFPS/2026-27/24 Dated: 05/06/2026
Sl.No.: 1 **Tender No.:** RWF/M/OT/ MWFPS/2026-27/24 Dated: 05/06/2026. **Name of the work:** Annual Maintenance shut-down of wheel shop equipments for 2026-27 (Maintenance WFPS)-Group-8. **Estimated Cost in Rs.:** 38,39,608.00. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 76,800.00. **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders:** 27/06/2026 at 10.30 Hrs.

E - TENDER NOTICE No:RWF/M/OT/ MWFPS/2026-27/25 Dated: 09/06/2026
Sl.No.: 1 **Tender No.:** RWF/M/OT/ MWFPS/2026-27/25 Dated: 09/06/2026. **Name of the work:** Annual Maintenance shut-down of wheel shop equipments for 2026-27 (MWFPS) - Group-9-cleaning machine - 1&2, peening machine 1&2 and WFPS conveyors. **Estimated Cost in Rs.:** 47, 31,973.00. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 94,600/-. **Date &Time of Closing of Tenders:** 01/07/2026 at 10.30 Hrs.

E - TENDER NOTICE No:RWF/M/OT/ MMR/2026-27/28 Dated: 09/06/2026
Sl.No.: 1 **Tender No.:** RWF/M/OT/MMR/ 2026-27/28 Dated: 09/06/2026. **Name of the work:** Wheel Shop Annual Shutdown 2026, Work No. 7 (MMR). **Estimated Cost in Rs.:** 23, 49,019.00. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 47,000/-. **Date &Time of Closing of Tenders:** 01/07/2026 at 10.30 Hrs.
Completion period for all: 12months
These tender notices can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
DY. CME/W-II

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders against Bid Enquiry No's on Electronic mode for the following Civil works.

No.:CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-2/26-27/1949 Date:09.06.2026

1) Replacement of obsolete 01Nos of 66kV Class ABB make breaker of 66kV R.N.Pura line-2 (Idle Bay) at **220/66/11kV Kushalnagar R/s** in Kushalanagara Taluk, Kodagu District on **(TTK basis)-Call-7 (Cat:Others).**
2) Replacement of existing age old/sluggish BHEL make 15 No's of 11kV, 20kA Switchgears (MCVCB) by 11kV 31.5kA Switchgears (MCVCB) at 66/11kV **Vijayanagar sub-station**, Mysuru District & Taluk on **PTK basis - Call-4 (CAT-IIA).**
3) Replacement of existing age old/sluggish under rated MEI retrofitted Kirloskar/MEI make 16 No's of 11kV 20/25KA Switchgears (MCVCB) by MEI make 11kV 25kA switchgears (MCVCB) at 66/11kV **KHB Colony sub-station**, Mysuru District & Taluk on **PTK basis -Call-4 (Cat:ST).**
4) Replacement of 02 No's of 20kA rating 11kV PCVCB MEI make Bank 1 & 2 breaker by 25KA breakers & Augmentation of existing capacitor bank from 2x2.9MVAR to 2x5.8MVAR connected to 2x20MVA power Transformer at 66/11kV **Periyapattana sub-station**, Periyapattana taluk, Mysuru district on **PTK basis – Call-3 (Cat:Others)**.
5) Replacement of existing 20KA, 1I/C+4F+1CB of 11kV PCVCB age old ABB make breaker by **25KA MEI make Breaker** and providing **2 No's of additional** breaker at 66/11kV **Haradanahally sub-station** in Saligrama Taluk and Mysuru District on **PTK** basis - **Call-6 (Cat:Others).**
6) Replacement by providing 11 No's of age old/sluggish 18.3kA power gear make switchgear(MCVCB) by 11kV, 31.5kA MEI make switchgear(MCVCB) and providing additional 02 No's of Capacitor bank breaker at **66/11kV K R Nagar sub-station**, K R Nagar Taluk, Mysuru District. on **PTK** basis –**Call-5 (Cat:Others).**
7) Replacement of aged old BHEL/MEI make 18.4/20 KA ,11 KV Bank-2 and its associated 10 No's of outgoing feeders , Capacitor bank-2 Feeder's PCVCB type switchgears by 31.5 KA, 2000A Incomer and 1600A Feeder MCVCB Switchgears at 66/11 KV **T.Narasipura sub-station**, T. Narasipura Taluk & Distrct on **PTK Basis -Call-1 (Cat:Others).**
8) Replacement of existing 11KV Bank 2 PCVCB Switch gears (1 I/C,8F,1CB) by MEI make MCVCB's(1 I/C,8F,1CB,1BC) at 66/11KV **Hullahalli sub-station**, Nanjanagudu Taluk, Mysuru District on **PTK basis -Call-1 (Cat:Others)**.
9) Providing additional **GI flats (Double run)** to all the 220kV & 66kV LAs, CTs, Circuit Breakers, PTs diagonally opposite end at 220kV **Thammadahalli R/s,** Hunsur Taluk, Mysuru District on **TTK basis-Call-1 (CAT-II(A))**.
10) Strengthening of Fence earthing at **220/66/11kV Kadakola R/s,** Mysuru Taluk & District on **TTK basis – Call-1 (Cat:Others).**
11) LoadingTransportation and unloading of **66/11kV 20MVA ECE Industrial Limited** make : Sl. No. **87684** Power transformer from 66/11kV **Doddarayapete sub-station** in Chamarajanagar Operations division to **66/11kV Haradanahalli** S/s in Saligrama Taluk, Mysuru district Hootagalli Operations division on **TTK basis – Call-1 (Cat:ST).**
12) Providing New 66kV 20 MVAr Capacitor Bank at 66/11kV **Doora sub-station**, Mysuru Taluk and District on **TTK Basis - Call-2 (Cat:Others).**
13) Augmentation of 2x8MVA 66/11KV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA 66/11kV Power Transformers in 66/11kV **Chandrawadi sub-station** in Nanjanagudu Taluk Mysuru District on **PTK** basis-**Call-4 (Cat:SC).**
14) Replacement of 2X12.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2X20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV in **Bettadapura sub-station**, Periyapattana Taluk, Mysuru District on **PTK basis-Call-4 (Cat:Others).**
15) Augmentation of 1 x 12.5 MVA and 1X8 MVA,66/11kV Transformer by 2 x 20 MVA, 66/11 kV Transformer at 66/11 KV **Hanagodu sub-station**, Hunsuru Taluk, Mysuru district on **PTK basis - Call-4 (Cat:ST).**
16) Augmentation of 1x8MVA & 1x12.5 MVA 66/11kV Transformers by **2 x 20 MVA,** 66/11 kV Transformer at 66/11 kV **B G Pura sub-station** in Malavalli Taluk, Mandya district on **PTK basis – Call-4 (CAT-II(A)).**
17) Augmentation of 2 x 8 MVA, 66/11kV Transformers by 2 x 20 MVA, 66/11 kV Transformers at 66/11 KV **K.Honnalagere sub-station**, Maddur Taluk, Mandya district on **PTK basis- Call-4 (Cat:SC).**
18) Augmentation of 2 x 8 MVA, 66/11kV Transformer by 2x12.5 MVA, 66/11 kV Transformer at 66/11 KV **Chidravalli sub-station**, T Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru district on **PTK basis-Call-1 (CAT-I).**
19) Augmentation of 1X 6.3 MVA & 1 X 8 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 2 X 12.5 MVA, 66/11KV Power Tr. at 66/11KV **Bherya sub-station**, Saligrama Taluk and Mysuru District on PTK basis-**Call-1 (Cat:Others).**
20) Augmentation of 2x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **Antharasanthe sub-station** in H D Kote Taluk, Mysuru District on **PTK basis- Call-1 (Cat:SC).**
21) Augmentation of 2 x 12.5 MVA, 66/11kV Transformer by 2 x 20 MVA, 66/11 kV Transformers along with Switchgears at 66/11 kV **Santhe Saraguru sub-station** in Saraguru (H D Kote) Taluk, Mysore district on **PTK basis- Call-1 (Cat:Others).**
22) Augmentation of 1x12.5 MVA and 1x8 MVA 66/11 kV Power Transformer by a 2x20 MVA Power Transformer at the 66/11 kV **Bylukuppe sub-station**, Periyapattana Taluk, Mysuru District on **PTK basis- Call-1 (Cat:Others).**
23) Augmentation of 2 x 8 MVA by 2 x 20 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV **Chunchanakatte sub-station**, Saligrama Taluk and Mysuru District on **PTK basis- Call-1 (Cat:SC).**
24) Augmentation of 2 x 8 MVA by 2 x 20 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **B. Matakere sub-station**, Sarguru Taluk, Mysuru district on **PTK basis- Call-1 (Cat:Others).**

No.:CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/EE(C)/EOD-1/26-27/1940 Date:09.06.2026

1) Construction of Damaged retaining wall and other allied works at 66/11kV **Gargeshwari sub-station**,T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District -**CALL-3. (Category-Others).**

The tender for the above work is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 12.06.2026.** More details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.), Transmission(Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound,N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru.

Riya Jadon

Teen Riya sets early pace in Mysuru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Riya Jadon carded card 3-under 67 to take a one-shot lead on the opening day of the 7th Leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club in Mysuru on Thursday.

The 17-year-old rookie from Gurugram finished with two birdies to take the pole position ahead of experienced Tvesa Malik who scored two-under 68.

Another Gurugram golfer Anvvi Dahhiya and Mysuru's Vidhatri Urs were the only other golfers to shoot an under par round after the duo ended with a one-under 69 each at the par-70 layout.

Amandeep Drall and Karishma Govind shot even par 70 each to position themselves at tied-fifth.

Standings (after 18 holes): 67: Riya Jadon; **68:** Tvesa Malik; **69:** Anvvi Dahhiya, Vidhatri Urs; **70:** Amandeep Drall, Karishma Govind.

IN BRIEF

MHC, KFD play out 2-2 draw

▸ Dharsan (22nd) and Syed Basha (34th) scored a goal each as Karnataka Forest Department posted a 2-2 draw against Metro Hockey Club at the KSHA Super Division League Championship on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Result: Metro Hockey Club: 2 (Roshan 13th, Teshwin 20th) drew with Karnataka Forest Department: 2 (Dharsan 22nd, Syed Basha M 34th).

Surgery for Parag

▸ Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag successfully underwent a right shoulder surgery on Thursday, reports PTI from Mumbai.

Parag, who led the Royals to the IPL 2026 playoffs, went through the procedure under the watch of Dr Dinshaw Pardiwalla.

AFI Awards on June 20

▸ The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) will host the inaugural edition of the Indian Athletic Awards on June 20 in Delhi, in an initiative aimed at recognising excellence in Indian athletics, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Serena's return comes to an end

▸ Serena Williams' much-hyped comeback to professional tennis at the Queen's Club lasted just one match, reports AP from London.

The 44-year-old Williams' doubles partner, 19-year-old Canadian Victoria Mboko, was forced to withdraw on Thursday because of a knee injury she sustained in a singles match.

Wimbledon prize money up

▸ Wimbledon's prize money pot has been increased by 20 percent to a tournament-record figure of £64.2 million ($85.7 million), reports AFP from London.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's T20 WC: England vs Sri Lanka (**11 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

World Cup: Canada vs Bosnia & Herzegovina (**12:30 am, Saturday**), USA vs Paraguay (**7:30 am, Saturday**). **LIVE** on **Unite8 Sports, Zee App.**

BADMINTON

Australian Open: Quarterfinal (**7:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET INDIA-AFGHANISTAN ODI

Hitman Rohit looks to silence critics

After a quiet year marred by injuries, opener eyes new start

SIDNEY KIRAN
DHARAMSALA, DHNS

As the FIFA World Cup 2026 kicked off on Thursday, there are a few 40-year-old superstars and another who is about a year from joining that club still hungry and passionate about continuing to exert their influence on the biggest stage of football.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (41 years), Croatia's Luka Modric (40), Germany's Manuel Neuer (40), Bosnia and Herzegovina's Edin Dzeko (40) and Argentina's Lionel Messi (set to turn 39 later this month) could have easily watched the global extravaganza from the confines of their living rooms, but the quintet is in the Americas, spearheading their respective country's challenge against the best in the business. Age is simply no deterrent for them, or a few other modest names like Mexico's Guillermo Ochoa (40) and Scotland's Craig Gordon (43), in their quest for glory.

Celebrated Indian batter Rohit Sharma, aged 39, is determined to attempt something similar when the ICC ODI World Cup is held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in October-November 2027. Winner of the two T20 World Cups, one as a budding youngster in the inaugural edition in 2007 and then as the captain in 2024, Rohit just doesn't want to be involved in the 2027 mega bash but win it for two reasons—firstly to add the elusive crown to his cabinet and secondly, like he has stated many times, make up for the heartbreak of 2023 when India was vanquished by Australia in the title clash in Ahmedabad.

That's the primary reason why the Mumbaikar, who has walked away from Tests and T20Is, is still continuing to toil hard; in fact harder than he ever has in the 50-overs format. It's a discipline close to his heart, and he's gone to great lengths, right from avoiding his favourite food and laying massive emphasis on fitness to keeping himself abreast of the competition.

Things though haven't necessarily gone to plan since the beginning of this year for one of the most likeable characters in the game. He managed scores of 26, 24 and 11 in the series against New Zealand, which India lost 1-2, and suffered a right hamstring strain during Mumbai Indians' IPL game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on April 12. He missed close to a month of action before returning in thumping fashion with a blistering 84 against Lucknow Super Giants on May 4. But since then, his bat has gone a bit cold.

Also, since the Australia series Down Under last year, Rohit has toned down his ultra-aggressive batting that he made famous during his captaincy reign. Tough conditions and good bowling attacks have forced not just him, but even the others in the Indian team, to adapt a more orthodox approach.

The three-match Afghanistan ODI series, starting at the HPCA Stadium here on Saturday, offers the perfect opportunity for Rohit to get back into his groove. While there's no immediate threat to his spot in the ODIs despite the selection committee, headed by Ajit Agarkar, phasing out veterans in their aim of building a team for the future, Rohit knows another string of failures will only give the wise men more ammunition against him.

But Rohit looked primed for assault during India's training session under lights at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur on Wednesday evening, where the ODI squad held a full-fledged training session after the Test team walloped Afghanistan inside three days in the one-off Test. Looking fit and showing no signs of rust, Rohit batted like a million bucks. He was the man in the spotlight and stole it by the end of it. Now, he would be hoping to replicate it on match days against Afghanistan.

Rohit Sharma takes part in a practice session, ahead of the first ODI against Afghanistan at the PCA Stadium in Mohali on Wednesday. The first ODI will be held in Dharamsala. PTI

IOC EB for strategic dialogue to pick Olympic hosts

NEW DELHI, PTI: The IOC's Executive Board has proposed the introduction of a strategic dialogue stage to short-list "Interested Parties with developed projects" in its Olympic host selection process as part of an ongoing review that has paused future bids, including that of India for the 2036 Games.

The Olympic host selection process was put on hold last year by IOC (International Olympic Committee) chief Kirsty Coventry, citing the need for greater dialogue with potential hosts. India is aiming for the 2036 Games with Ahmedabad as the host city.

"The IOC EB is proposing a transitional stage of 'Strategic Dialogue' between Continuous and Targeted Dialogue to allow the EB (Executive Board) to shortlist Interested Parties, as well as the increased involvement of stakeholders along the way," read an IOC statement.

A new methodology for reviewing the Olympic programme and changes to the host selection procedure will be proposed to the 146th IOC Session due to meet on June 24 and 25 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Antonelli eyes another hit

Italian could become sixth driver to claim six straight wins

BARCELONA, AFP

Ten years after Max Verstappen announced his arrival by winning the 2016 Spanish Grand Prix, his apparent heir Mercedes' teenage ace Kimi Antonelli, will on Sunday seek a crushing sixth consecutive victory.

The 19-year-old Italian, the youngest championship leader in F1 history, delivered a supreme demonstration of icy control and pure speed in Monaco last weekend - following a stunning pole lap with a masterful lights-to-flag triumph.

This week he could become only the sixth driver to claim six straight wins and so equal pre-season favourite and teammate George Russell's career total.

That would be another tough setback for the Briton as he bids to rebuild his season in the best car and engine package in a scrap with a precocious unfazed speedster who seems to be devoid of nerves.

A decade ago, while very different, the scenario threw up a race full of parallels that, if repeated on Sunday at the Circuit de Catalunya, might see another teenage triumph or Verstappen emerging again with a smile and Red Bull rejoicing.

For that to happen, however, the Milton Keynes-based team will need to recover from the power unit failure that ended Verstappen's race on the grid In Monte Carlo and regain the speed shown in Montreal where the four-time champion finished third.

Ten years ago, Mercedes, as now, arrived in Catalunya as the team to beat only for their duelling title protagonists Lewis Hamilton, now a seven-time champion, and Nico Rosberg, who took the 2016 title and promptly retired, to collide and exit on the first lap.

That gifted the 18-year-old Red Bull debutant a memorable first win with the two Ferraris driven by 2007 champion Kimi Raikkonen and four-time champion Sebastain Vettel second and third.

Something similar - the Mercedes' drivers clashed in Canada - is not impossible.

Mercedes' teenage ace Kimi Antonelli will seek a sixth straight win at Barcelona Grand Prix. AFP

ECB chief Key ponders booze ban

LONDON, AFP: England cricket chief Rob Key is considering imposing a total alcohol ban on the squad following a nightclub incident involving Ben Stokes but said "no rash decisions" will be made on the all-rounder's long-term future as Test captain.

Stokes will miss next week's second Test against New Zealand at the Oval after he and team-mate Gus Atkinson were dropped for breaking a curfew following England's win in the series opener at Lord's. Their night out ended in a confrontation featuring Saracens rugby union player Totoa Auvaa.

The incident remains subject to investigation by both the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the independent Cricket Regulator as well as by Saracens.

Stokes has made no comment amid speculation the 35-year-old might voluntarily resign as captain or even quit international cricket.

But Key, the managing director of men's cricket at the ECB, did not rule out stripping Stokes of leadership duties as he addressed the issue in public for the first time.

Knicks on brink of NBA title after record rally

NEW YORK, AFP: OG Anunoby's game-clinching tip-in to put New York on the brink of an NBA title will go down as one of the greatest plays in Knicks history, coach Mike Brown said.

The Knicks staged the biggest comeback in Finals history as they erased a 29-point deficit to beat the San Antonio Spurs 107-106 on Wednesday and take a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven championship series.

They'll now have three chances to clinch their first title since 1973, starting with game five on Saturday in San Antonio.

"It's unbelievable," Brown said of Anunoby's basket, which saw him rise to pat home Jalen Brunson's three-point miss.

"The tip, how he had to control it and tip it in -- that has to be the most iconic shot in the history of New York basketball."

Brown had challenged Anunoby to step up his offensive rebounding.

"Told me I need to get on the glass, offensive glass especially, and just use my ability, size, strength, athleticism, to make an impact on the offensive glass," Anunoby said. "And it happened at the end."

New York Knicks forward Og Anunoby (right) and Karl-Anthony Towns on Wednesday. REUTERS

It was a stunning outcome at Madison Square Garden, despite the Knicks making a habit of comeback wins.

They rallied from 22 points down with less than eight minutes left in regulation to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers in overtime in game one of their Eastern Conference finals sweep.

They erased a 14-point second-half deficit to stun the Spurs in San Antonio in game one of the Finals.

Anvay, Kashvi in India men's & women's under-19 sides

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka wicketkeeper-batter Anvay Dravid has been selected to the Indian men's under-19 one-day squad for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka, comprising three one-day matches.

The side will be led by Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan who will also helm responsibilities of the multi-day match squad.

The one-day squad includes wicketkeepers Rajat Baghel and Anvay, while Manav Krishna and Aryan Sandesh Sakpal have been picked as for the multi-day fixtures.

Kashvi included

Promising Karnataka all-rounder Kashvi Kandikuppa has found place in both the India under-19 women's T20 and one-day squads.

Wicketkeeper-batter Bhavika Ahire will lead both the sides.

Men's one-day squad: Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan (C), Sagar Virk, Lakshya Raichandani (VC), Vineeth V K, Arjun Rajput, Kushagra Ojha, Rajat Baghel (WK), Anvay Dravid (WK), Anmoljeet Singh, Vutkuri Yashveer Goud, Rohit Anil Yadav, Shavin V, Kavya Paresh Patel, Mohit Ulva, Ishan Sood.

Multi-day squad: Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan (C), Sagar Virk, Lakshya Raichandani (VC), Patel Kush, Manal Chauhan, Kushagra Ojha, Manav Krishna (WK), Aryan Sandesh Sakpal (WK), Hemchudeshan J, BK Kishore, Rohit Anil Yadav, Kavya Paresh Patel, Priyanshu Singh, Pranav Raghvendra, Chigurupati Venkata.

Women's T20 squad: Bhavika Ahire (Captain, WK), Ira Jadhav, Tanishka Sharma, Ishwari Awasare, Avni Chawda, Mahto Nidhi, Purva Siwach, Kumari Palak, Mahak Narwase (VC), Kashvi Kandikuppa, Maniar Maitri, Gouri Goyal, Janvi Vikar, Anaadi Tagde, K Deeksha (WK).

One-day squad: Bhavika Ahire (Captain, WK), Ira Jadhav, Deeya Yadav, Ishwari Awasare, V Pratiksha, Mahto Nidhi, Purva Siwach, Kumari Palak, Mahak Narwase (VC), Kashvi Kandikuppa, Vidhi Parmar, Gouri Goyal, Janvi Vikar, Anaadi Tagde, K Deeksha (WK).

Bhaker to spearhead India's shooting charge at Asiad

NEW DELHI, PTI: Olympic medallist pistol shooter Manu Bhaker **(in pic)** will compete in two events at the upcoming Asian Games while Anish Bhanwala will be the lone Indian representative in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol event as the National Rifle Association of India on Thursday announced a 30-member shooting squad for the continental showpiece.

Manu was included in the 10m air pistol event owing to her proven ability to deliver under pressure on the biggest stages, despite finishing seventh in the latest series of trials conducted by the federation.

She had already secured her place in the 25m pistol event by finishing second in the trials, which guaranteed her qualification.

While all other shooting events across the shotgun, pistol and rifle disciplines will feature three Indian shooters competing for individual and team medals, the 25m rapid-fire pistol event will have only Bhanwala in action.

The federation opted against naming two additional shooters merely to fill the quota, preferring instead to field only those considered genuine medal contenders.

The Asian Games will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, and India will be hoping to replicate or even surpass its impressive performance from the 2023 edition in Hangzhou.

Squads: Rifle (Men) 10m air rifle: Parth Rakesh Mane, Himanshu Dhillon, Rudrankksh Patil. 50m rifle 3-positions: Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Niraj Kumar, Rudrankksh Patil. **(Women) 10m air rifle:** Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Uttam Maskar, Vidarsa K Vinod. 50m rifle 3-positions: Ashi Chouksey, Vidarsa K Vinod, Tilottama Sen. **(10m air rifle mixed team)** Parth Rakesh Mane and Elavenil Valarivan.
Pistol (Men): 10m air pistol: Kedarling B. Uchaganve, Gaurav, Kamaljeet. **25m rapid fire:** Anish Bhanwala. **(Women) 10m air pistol:** Suruchi, Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker. **25m sports pistol:** Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker, Rahi Sarnobat. **(10m air pistol mixed team)** Kedarling B. Uchaganve and Suruchi.
Shotgun: (Men) Trap: Kynan Chenai, Ahvar Rizvi, Shapath Bharadwaj. **(Women)** Neeru, Manisha Keer, Aashima Ahlawat. **Skeet (Men)** Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Bhavtegh Singh Gill, Mairaj Ahmad Khan. **(Women)** Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Raiza Dhillon, Maheshwari Chauhan.

Maharaja Trophy: Playing 11s to be submitted before toss

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cricket has seen many significant changes over the years. While some innovations have transformed how the sport is consumed, others have disturbed its fundamental tenet: The balance between bat and ball.

In an attempt to level the playing field, the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) has introduced a few changes to Playing Conditions for the fifth edition of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20.

The changes that were announced during the trophy unveiling ceremony at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday afternoon, largely were with respect to the Impact Player (IP) rule and Free hit.

Just like how the Indian Premier League (IPL) introduced the IP rule with the motive to hand exposure to the local talent, the same will be applied in the Maharaja Trophy as well. However, the teams will have to submit their playing XIs before the toss, ensuring teams to strategically think before using it.

KSCA's flagship T20 tournament will now see the officials not awarding runs to the batter if and when they are dismissed off a free-hit delivery.

In addition to this, if a batter is signalled out by the on-field umpires, but if the decision is overturned, the runs accumulated during play will be awarded to the batter.

Speaking at the event, the legendary Rahul Dravid, who alongside KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad, unveiled the trophy, said that competition is a solid platform for upcoming talents from Karnataka to showcase their skills, which in turn can open IPL doors.

India legend Rahul Dravid (left) and KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad unveil the Maharaja Trophy for the KSCA's T20 event at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

"It gives me great pride to unveil the Maharaja Trophy, one of the most important tournaments in the KSCA calendar," Dravid said. "And it's really nice to see that the fifth edition is going to be conducted in three cities. It gives people the opportunity to see the best talents live from Karnataka.

"As I have been involved with the IPL for many years, I know for a fact that it is a tournament that is followed by a lot of IPL teams. There will be a lot of scouts who watch the game live. The scores of these games are watched very closely. The stats and data are collected from here and into the IPL. And a good example is Yash Raj Punja."

Fans can secure their seats for the Mysuru leg of the tournament as the tickets will go live on District (Zomato platform) from 3:00 pm on June 12. The prices will range from Rs 100 to Rs 250.

Tharp breaks 110m hurdles world record

LOS ANGELES, AFP: Ja'Kobe Tharp clocked 12.75sec to smash the 110m hurdles world record during heats at the NCAA collegiate athletics championships in Eugene, Oregon, on Wednesday.

Ja'Kobe Tharp

Tharp wiped out the long-standing previous record of 12.80sec set by fellow American Aries Merritt in Brussels on September 7, 2012.

The performance, run with a legal tailwind of one meter per second sec, also shattered Grant Holloway's NCAA collegiate record of 12.98sec set in 2019.

The 20-year-old Auburn University standout came into the meeting with a personal best of 13.01sec.

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

WORLD CUP

Iran's team finds supporters in Mexico

Iran's national football team walked out of their hotel in Tijuana to cheers on Wednesday, with Mexican supporters hoping to lift the spirits of a side whose World Cup campaign has been partly overshadowed by war, reports AFP from Tijuana, Mexico.

"Vamos Iran! Vamos Iran!" chanted around 30 fans, who asked Iranian footballers for autographs as though they were supporting their own national team.

Jose Leyva, a 28-year-old pizzeria worker, waited several hours by the fence to get a signature from Mehdi Taremi, Iran's star striker.

Banned Somali ref to officiate in Super Cup

Somali referee Omar Artan **(below)**, who was denied entry to the United States for the World Cup, was on Thursday named to officiate UEFA's Super Cup, European football's governing body announced, reports AFP from Paris.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin poured praise on the Somali referee in a statement released a few hours before global body FIFA's flagship World Cup was to start.

"Omar Artan is an excellent young but already experienced referee, who has proven himself at the highest competition level of the Confederation of African Football," said Ceferin.

'Ivory Coast supporters banned'

Ivory Coast home-based fans have been denied visas to the United States, the president of the national supporters' committee told AFP on Thursday, reports AFP from Abidjan.

The run-up to the World Cup, which kicks off Thursday, has been dogged by the visa policies of the main host nation, the United States. Somali referee Omar Artan was turned away Sunday and some support staff for the Iranian team have been denied entry.

The Ivory Coast supporters group, said Julien Kouadio Adonis, organises trips for the country's small number of travelling fans to follow the team abroad.

Haiti forced to change kit

Haiti have been forced to change their kit design just days before their World Cup opener against Scotland after FIFA banned a depiction of a war scene on the shirts, reports AFP from Los Angeles.

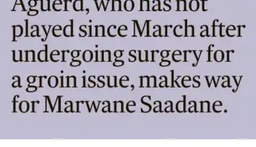
An illustration of the Battle of Vertieres in 1803, which secured Haiti's independence, with the Haitian flag had been embedded on the shirts worn by the players in two warm-up friendlies in Florida.

Colombian manufacturer Saeta said on Wednesday that they have modified the kit to meet FIFA's regulations.

Streets named after Henry, Pele

New York has honored two footballing greats by temporarily renaming streets after Thierry Henry **(in pic)** and Pele ahead of the World Cup kickoff, reports AFP from New York. Crowds gathered at West 50th Street and 6th Avenue in downtown Manhattan to mark the unveiling of "Thierry Henry Way" by city officials, according to FOX Sports. The city also renamed the intersection of Shea Road and Meridian Road, in the Queens borough, after Brazilian Pele.

The former Arsenal star, who was part of France squad that won in 1998 World Cup, made an appearance via video call.



Morocco replace Abde, Aguerd

Morocco made two injury-enforced changes to their World Cup squad on Thursday, with winger Abde Ezzalzouli **(in pic)** and defender Nayef Aguerd ruled out ahead of their tournament opener against Brazil, reports AFP from New Jersey

Real Betis forward Ezzalzouli picked up a knee injury in a friendly against Norway last weekend. He has been replaced in Morocco's squad by Amine Sbai of Angers, according to the squad list released by FIFA.

Marseille centre-back Aguerd, who has not played since March after undergoing surgery for a groin issue, makes way for Marwane Saadane.

USA forward Christian Pulisic (left) and Paraguay's midfielder Miguel Almiron will be key to their team's prospects as the two meet in their World Cup opener in Inglewood on Friday. AFP

US primed to plant flag in opener vs Paraguay

First WC match on US soil in 32 years after the 1994 final

IRVINE
CALIFORNIA, REUTERS

The long-awaited World Cup opener on home soil on Friday promises to contain deep shades of red, white and blue for the United States men's national team.

Manager Mauricio Pochettino might be from Argentina and goal-producing forward Folarin Balogun grew up in England after he was born in New York City, but star playmaker Christian Pulisic does hail from the All-American chocolate bar-producing town of Hershey, Pa.

The home fans are ready to embrace all of it when the USMNT (United States men's national soccer team) takes on Paraguay to kick off Group D play Friday night in search of a sweet result. It will be the first World Cup match on US soil in 32 years, when the 1994 Final was played just up the road in Pasadena. It was another eight years of waiting after the joint hosting bid from the United States, Canada and Mexico was accepted.

The 26-man USMNT squad selected by Pochettino is evenly divided between 13 players with previous World Cup experience and 13 first-timers. And yet even those who have been there before know this one will be different.

"You say it's not our first rodeo, but it's our first one on home soil. So it kind of is our first rodeo," captain Tim Ream said. "... I've tried to tell guys and convey the message in the media that this is a once-in-a-career opportunity. With that comes more expectation, more pressure, but at the same time, we have to enjoy it. There's nobody putting more expectation, more pressure on us than ourselves. That's the way that it should be."

Ream, 38, is the only member of the team who remembers the 1994 World Cup. Goalkeeper Matt Turner, who was born during that summer's event, was the only other player alive at the time.

That World Cup was a watershed moment for US soccer. The Americans made it out of the group stage for the first time since 1934, inspiring a generation of young Americans in what was the second of six straight World Cup appearances after a 40-year absence between 1950 and 1990.

Pochettino, who played in the 2002 World Cup for Argentina and previously managed club teams Tottenham, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea, was tapped for his vast experience. He was hired in September of 2024 with the goal of maximizing the team's potential in front of the home fans.

While the build-up to the World Cup has been rocky at times, there are signs the squad is hitting its stride. The U.S. defeated Senegal 3-2 on May 31 in Charlotte and were competitive in a 2-1 loss to four-time World Cup champion Germany in the final friendly Saturday at Chicago.

Paraguay coach Gustavo Alfaro is not shying away from what this return means.

"I know what this country feels. I know what 16 long years of waiting, of frustrations, of heartbreaks, of curses, of watching a World Cup on television feel like," Alfaro said.

"I am not going to ask any Paraguayan to be rational. No, quite the contrary. We are prepared to fight. We are prepared to offer our hearts. We are prepared to leave our skin on the pitch. We are prepared to honor the memory of our past."

It remains to be seen if Paraguay striker Julio Enciso will be available for the opener. The 22-year-old was taken from the field on a stretcher during the team's final warm-up against Nicaragua with hamstring and quad injuries.

Raphinha eager to deliver for Ancelotti

BASKING RIDGE
(USA), AFP

Brazil star Raphinha intends to repay the faith shown in him by new coach Carlo Ancelotti at the World Cup after frequently proving to be the nemesis of the Italian during past encounters at club level.

The pair came up against each other over three years in Spain when the 29-year-old forward was at Barcelona and Ancelotti was on the Real Madrid bench.

Ancelotti left Madrid at the end of last season, after a campaign in which Raphinha scored as he captained Barca to a 4-0 win at the Bernabeu in La Liga and netted twice as the Catalans won 4-3 in the reverse fixture, en route to taking the title.

He also featured in the Barcelona teams that beat Ancelotti's Real in the finals of the Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup.

"What he has achieved in football is admirable, not just to those who worked with him but also his opponents," Raphinha told reporters Wednesday at the Brazil team's World Cup base in New Jersey.

"It was always very difficult coming up against him, but I was lucky to come out smiling a lot of the time.

"Now I hope to do for him all the things I did against him. To help get good results for him and for the team, because they really deserve it."

Ancelotti is leading Brazil as they attempt to end a 24-year wait to win a record-extending sixth World Cup at the tournament in North America.

The former AC Milan and Chelsea coach celebrated his 67th birthday on Wednesday, three days before the Selecao begin their World Cup campaign against Morocco in Group C at the MetLife Stadium, just outside New York City.

Brazil are set to go into that game without Neymar, who was called up for the tournament despite not being capped since 2023 because of injuries and is now set to miss Saturday's match due to a calf problem.

Attacking leader

Raphinha may need to step up in Neymar's absence, four years after his first World Cup in which he appeared in every game but failed to score as the Selecao went out to Croatia on penalties in the quarter-finals in Qatar.

"I think I felt more pressure in 2022, because I was more immature. I was quite new to the national team and had just arrived at Barcelona," said the former Leeds United winger.

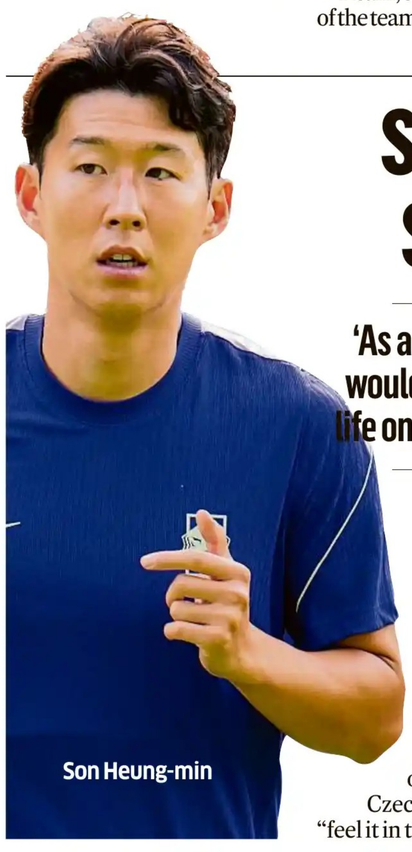
"I didn't feel completely settled in the Brazil squad. I feel much more ready now."

He is coming off a season in which he scored 21 goals and set up eight more in all competitions as Barcelona won La Liga. But he missed five of Brazil's six friendly games between October and March due to injuries.

He and Vinicius Junior, who played under Ancelotti in Madrid, were the only two Brazilians ranked in the top 30 in last year's Ballon d'Or and carry much of the attacking responsibility for their country going into the World Cup.

WHAT (ANCELOTTI) HE HAS ACHIEVED IN FOOTBALL IS ADMIRABLE, I HOPE TO DO WELL.
Raphinha

Son keeping 'fired-up' South Koreans calm



Son Heung-min

'As a player, you would stake your life on every game'

MEXICO CITY, AFP

South Korea captain Son Heung-min said on Wednesday his team-mates were so excited about their World Cup opener against the Czech Republic he could "feel it in their eyes".

Son will lead out his side on Thursday in the tournament's second match after co-hosts Mexico kick-off the showpiece against South Africa.

"The guys are so fired-up for this match, and I actually have to calm them down," Son said at the pre-match press conference in Guadalajara.

"I hope our hard work will bear fruit, and I think we absolutely deserve it. The vibe is tremendous, and I can feel it from the eyes of my teammates.

"Every World Cup match is so important that, as a player, you would stake your life on it. Tomorrow, we will give everything we've got and more."

Former Tottenham star Son, 33, comes into his fourth and possibly his last World Cup after a poor season for his new club, Los Angeles FC, scoring just twice.

He said his excitement for football's global showpiece never dimmed.

"My mindset is similar, whether it's my first or last World Cup. I feel like a child again," he said.

"I have never once said this is my last World Cup. The most important thing is to do my job. People can say whatever they want, and I will choose my path wisely."

South Korea will face Mexico on June 18.

Infantino defends high ticket prices, US immigration policy

MEXICO CITY, AP

FIFA President Gianni Infantino defended World Cup ticket prices on Wednesday, saying "if we do something wrong, then probably everyone selling tickets in North America is doing something wrong".

Infantino spoke with reporters during a rare question-and-answer session on the eve of the opening match of an expanded 48-nation, 104-game World Cup tournament. He defended record ticket prices, said FIFA was powerless to get the US government to admit a Somali referee, and praised his ability to get Iran's national soccer team into the United States.

FIFA priced tickets starting at USD 140 for group-stage games, but regular seats for the July 19 final outside New York were listed at up to USD 8,680 and hospitality seats at up to USD 73,200. It raised prices for the final to USD 10,990 and then USD 32,970.

After much criticism, FIFA offered USD 60 tickets to national federations for their regular supporters. Infantino said 130,000 tickets were offered in that category.

Four years ago at the tournament in Qatar, prices ranged from USD 69 to USD 1,607.

"If you sell it at a lower price point," he said, "in this particular market it would have gone - which is perfectly legal in this country ... in secondary markets at much, much, much higher prices and where would the money go then? Well, to those who organise secondary markets or black market activities and not to football."

From defending ticket prices to asking fans to 'chill' about ref denied US entry and praising US president Donal Trump, FIFA President Gianni Infantino countered several pressing issues before the start of the FIFA World Cup during a news conference in Mexico City on Wednesday. AP/ PTI

Infantino said the average ticket price was below USD 500 for the tournament and was comparable to other US sports during their playoffs, a claim that while true for resale prices does not appear to be accurate for list prices.

'FIFA powerless'

Infantino said it was unfortunate Somali referee Omar Artan was denied entry to the US.

"We don't control everything. We try. We'll discuss, we will speak, we'll see. Maybe sometimes it's good as well to just chill, relax," he said. "We try to solve everything. Sometimes to immediately start screaming and shouting has the opposite effect of finding a solution. Believe me when I tell you, or don't believe me if you don't want, but we try always to find solutions, always. But then we need to respect that we are not the kings of the world who can rule over governments and police forces."

Set to become the first Somali referee at a World Cup, Artan was denied entry to the US at Miami International Airport on Saturday over unspecified "vetting concerns", US Customs and Border Protection said in a statement, without giving details of the concerns.

"Our world is a very aggressive world and security goes above everything and you need to respect the decisions which are taken," Infantino said. "We are working behind the scenes."

Iran's participation

Infantino praised FIFA for working through details that allow Iran to play in the tournament at a time the US is at war with that country. The Iranian team moved its training camp from the US to Mexico.

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Injury-hit Canada brace for Bosnia test

Hosts' hopes will rest on their all-time highest scorer David

TORONTO, REUTERS

Canada will carry immense pressure into their World Cup opener when, in perhaps the most seminal moment in the country's soccer history, they face Bosnia and Herzegovina on Friday in front of a partisan home crowd with both teams seeking a first-ever knockout stage berth.

Canada's quest for respectability on the global stage has been nothing short of painful, and six defeats from six matches across the 1986 and 2022 tournaments tell the story of a nation still searching for its World Cup identity.

But coach Jesse Marsch's revolution has injected fresh belief into a program that, less than two months after he took over in May 2024, advanced to the semi-finals in their Copa America debut before being sent home by reigning World Cup champions Argentina.

Marsch's blueprint for World Cup success has hit an early snag, however, with a mounting injury list threatening to derail Canada's golden opportunity to thrust soccer further into the mainstream of the country's sporting and cultural landscape.

Captain Alphonso Davies, who scored Canada's first-ever goal at a World Cup, will watch the Group B opener from the sidelines at Toronto Stadium with a hamstring injury suffered during Bayern Munich's Champions League semifinal last month.

The Davies blow is compounded by the loss of Marcelo Flores, the Mexico-turned-Canada midfielder whose switch of allegiance was seen as a coup for the World Cup co-hosts. A knee injury suffered in May has ruled Flores out entirely, while defender Moise Bombito's recovery from a broken leg appears to have stalled after lasting just 30 minutes in a warm-up against Uzbekistan.

With Davies expected back for group stage clashes against Qatar and Switzerland, the burden of carrying Canadian hopes falls largely on Jonathan David, the nation's all-time leading scorer with 39 goals, who must spearhead an attack desperate to end years of World Cup frustration.

Maxime Crepeau, who last week was named Canada's starting goalkeeper, will finally get his World Cup moment after missing the 2022 edition with a broken leg suffered during the MLS Cup Final 15 days before that year's tournament kicked off in Qatar. Standing in Canada's way right out of the gate is a first-time meeting with Bosnia's battle-hardened Dragons, who are back on the biggest stage after their penalty shootout heroics against four-time champions Italy secured a second World Cup appearance.

Veteran striker Edin Dzeko, one of only two remaining players from Bosnia's debut World Cup appearance in 2014, will be captain and father figure to a youthful squad who are being tipped to make a big impression at the tournament. The vast experience of Dzeko, Bosnia's all-time leading goalscorer by a considerable margin and one of a World Cup-record eight players aged 40 or older selected to play at the tournament, will be crucial in the team's bid to escape the group.

Canada's head coach Jesse Marsch (left) and Bosnia-Herzegovina's head coach Sergej Barbarez. AFP

Canada's Jonathan David will hope for a good start when his side kicks off their World Cup campaign on Friday. AFP

Pedro Neto

Portugal beat Nigeria in tune-up despite Ronaldo woes

LEIRIA, AFP

Portugal beat Nigeria 2-1 in a World Cup warm-up on Wednesday, with goals from Pedro Neto and Francisco Conceicao making up for an off night for Cristiano Ronaldo.

Chelsea forward Neto opened the scoring midway through the first half, but Nigeria levelled through Akor Adams before half-time.

Juventus winger Conceicao restored Portugal's lead 15 minutes from the end in Leiria as five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo wasted a number of good chances.

At 41, Ronaldo will be heading to his record sixth World Cup, but there are concerns in some quarters that his presence will prevent Roberto Martinez's strong side from flourishing.

With his full squad available following the arrival of the four players who won the Champions League with Paris Saint-Germain, Martinez started midfielders Vitinha and Joao Neves alongside Manchester United playmaker Bruno Fernandes.

Portugal leave on Friday to set up base camp in Palm Beach, Florida.

They open their World Cup campaign on June 17 in Houston against the Democratic Republic of Congo, before facing Uzbekistan and Colombia in Group K.

Aging Croatia arrive with hope to find their footing

ALEXANDRIA (US), AP

The Croatian team that came to the United States for this year's World Cup does not seem totally ready to enter a new era.

After back-to-back semifinal appearances, why would it be?

Croatia has arrived in the Washington, DC area, where it is setting up camp at least through the group stage, although its three games are in Arlington, Texas; Toronto; and Philadelphia. The roster includes one of the game's greats in 40-year-old Luka Modric, as well as 37-year-old Ivan Perisic. Both of them helped the team to a runner-up finish in 2018 and third place in 2022.

"I think it's a big thing for any young player to have players such as Luka, Perisic, (Mateo) Kovacic and (Andrej) Kramaric in the team," 23-year-old striker Igor Matanovic said Wednesday through a translator, mentioning each of the four players on Croatia's roster with more than 100 appearances in international play. "To see every little detail they do, I think it's a great privilege, and I try to learn as much as I can."

Croatia's first World Cup appearance was in 1998 after the breakup of Yugoslavia, and the team made it all the way to the semifinals. The Vatreni, as they are called, have certainly made their mark on the event, and not just because of their familiar checkered shirts. Croatia finished third in 1998 and 2022 and reached the final in 2018 in Russia before losing to France.

Modric won the Ballon d'Or in 2018, the only time from 2008-21 that Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo didn't win it. He needs just two more international appearances to reach 200, and although the midfielder broke his cheekbone in April, he scored while wearing a protective mask in Sunday's 2-1 win over Slovenia in a friendly.

He has played in four World Cups already, the first in 2006 when Matanovic was only three years old. Croatia didn't qualify for the 2010 tournament.

Not only did the Vatreni keep several experienced players around for this year, but they also have the same coach, Zlatko Dalic, from 2018 and 2022. It's a team not lacking for continuity and experience. The question is whether at some point age will catch up.

That could be answered quickly. Croatia's opener is next Wednesday against England in one of the most anticipated group matches in the whole tournament. It's a rematch of a 2018 semifinal.

"It's a big football nation, a big team. The English Premier League is the best in the world for a reason," midfielder Kristijan Jakic said through a translator. "I was surprised a little bit by their final squad list because they were missing some players that maybe you would expect. But that also says a lot about their quality. They're highly motivated to win."

Jakic was on the team in 2022, but his playing time in that World Cup consisted of a single minute in the third-place match against Morocco.

"That minute was the highlight of my whole career, of my life," Jakic said. "I would lie to you if I didn't say that I expect or hope for a few more minutes than one minute, but I will give my best to the team and I will be very happy with everything that I play for Croatian team."

Jakic did score twice in qualifying for this tournament, and at some point Croatia will need to build around a new generation of players.

Despite age not on their side, 40-year-old Luka Modric as well as 37-year-old Ivan Perisic, will be expected to bring in their experince in leading Croatia. REUTERS

World Cup fever — Football carnival began hours before the Mexico vs South Africa tie

CLOCKWISE (from top): The opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup is underway at the Estadio Azteca ahead of the opening game between Mexico and South Africa. The FIFA World Cup 2026 mascots (from left) Maple, Zayu and Clutch pose for a picture. Children dressed in traditional Mexican attire were part of the football festivities ahead of home team's first match. A calavera, a skull symbol associated with Mexico's Day of the Dead tradition, is pictured at the entrance of the fan zone outside the stadium in Mexico City on Thursday. AFP/ REUTERS

Gordon thunders in England warm-up win on stormy day

ORLANDO, AFP

England were undeterred by a thunderstorm that delayed their final World Cup warm-up friendly as they beat Costa Rica 3-0 in Orlando on Wednesday.

Anthony Gordon was the star of the show with a goal and an assist as he made his case to start ahead of Marcus Rashford in England's World Cup opener against Croatia on June 17.

Kick-off was postponed by one hour after torrential rain and lightning in Florida left the pitch at the at the Inter&Co Stadium heavily waterlogged ahead of the planned 4pm (2000 GMT) kick-off time.

The experience could prove helpful to Thomas Tuchel's side in the coming weeks with weather delays expected to play a prominent part in the first ever 48-team World Cup, which begins on Thursday.

Anthony Gordon

Tuchel appeared to signal his team selection for the Croatia clash as he named a strong side and held off on substitutions until just after the hour mark.

Gordon and Jude Bellingham were the big winners as the latter edged ahead of Morgan Rogers in the battle to start behind Harry Kane in attack.

New Barcelona winger Gordon beat his man to reach the byline and cut the ball back for Declan Rice to open the scoring on nine minutes.

Kane was withdrawn among six changes made by Tuchel on 63 minutes.

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